THE HISTORY OF A FAMOUS COURT HOUSE LOCATED AT CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS

BY W. B. BROWN

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This book tells the story of the construction of the present court house which cost $1,380,500, and of the two preceding it. The first court house was built of logs in 1830 and cost $128.66. The second one was constructed of brick in 1838-40 and cost $15,000.

The construction of the log court house and the brick court house did not attract more than ordinary attention. For that reason rather brief mention is made of them. It is about the present court house whose stirring history covers a period from 1867, when its construction began, down to 1910, when the last bond was paid and the debt discharged, that this book has to do. It contains a simple recital of the main facts as disclosed by the records and first hand information obtained from those who had intimate knowledge of the new court house from the time its erection began down to the time the bonds were paid.

In addition to the story of the three court houses, a number of biographies of business and professional men are contained in the book. To those who contributed the sketches, and for helpful suggestions from friends, sincere thanks are offered.

The Author.

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CARLINVILLE, ILLINOIS,

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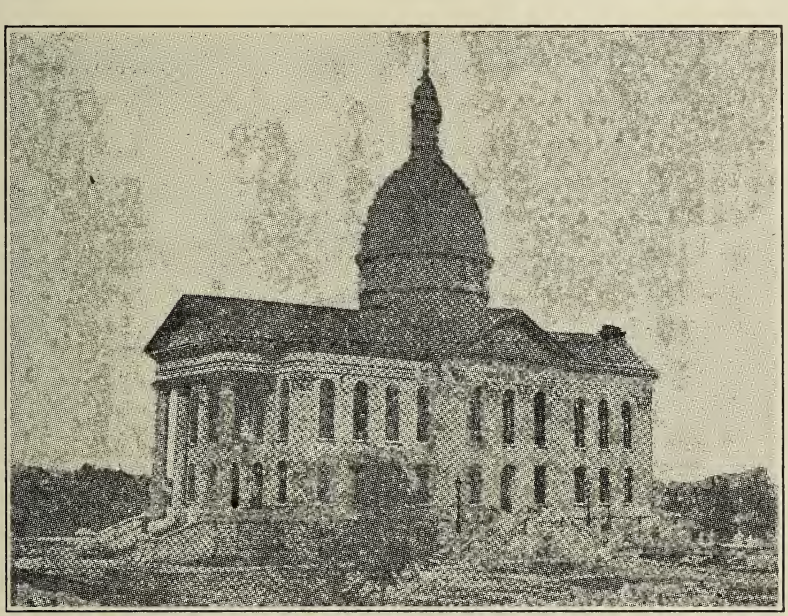
The History of a Famous Court House

When the Board of Supervisors of Macoupin county at a meeting held in the fall of 1933, decided to accept the offer of the Civil Works Administration, at Washington, to give financial assistance for the redecorating and partial reconstruction of the court house, their action served once more to bring to the attention of the people of this county its great temple of justice. Those of the older generation have a fairly good knowledge of the interesting history connected with its inception and construction. But to the younger generation only fragments of the actual story have come into their possession.

The history of the erection of this magnificent building reads in many respects like a tale from a book of fiction, rather than a recital of actual



The Court House as it appeared in 1869. Note the piles of dirt in the distance at the right. Part of the iron fence shows at the left.

facts. It cost, according to the county records, $1,380,500. This in itself was a staggering sum for a country community, even when it was spread over a period of forty years, commencing as it did in 1867. When the erection of the present court house was begun, the county was not under township organization. The sheriff was the tax collector and the civil war had ended only two years. West of the Mississippi river our country was in most respects practically undeveloped. This will give the younger readers a background of conditions existing in Macoupin county in 1867. When this court house was completed it was said to be the finest county building in the

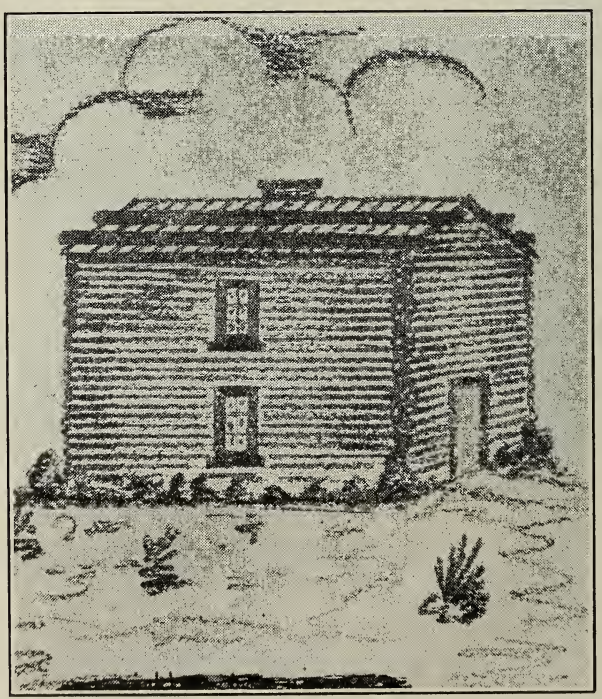
United States, with the possible exception of the one located in the confines of New York city. It was much more pretentious than most state capitols at that time.

Why the Court House was Built

So far as is known no official record has ever been made as to why such an expensive court house now adorns the county seat. Back in the early sixties there was talk of dividing Macoupin county and making two counties out of it. If this had been done it was the plan to have the county seat located at Virden in the north county and at Bunker Hill in the south county. This of course, would have taken the county seat away from Carlinville. While there is nothing on record to prove that this was the motive, it is fairly well established that this was the real reason that prompted the action to have the big court house built at Carlinville. Once this immense building was started on its way, it was sound reasoning to assume that no one with enough influence, could stop the plan and divide the county.

The First Court House

In order to give a true idea of the full meaning of all that the building of the present court house meant, a brief account of two other court houses built in Macoupin county will be given. The first court house was built of logs in 1830. It was ordered constructed by the county court which assemb-

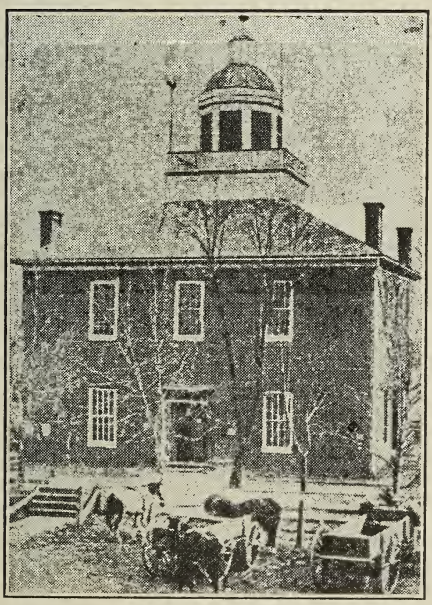


The First Court House, built of logs in 1830. The photograph is from a recent sketch drawn from the original description of the building.

led at the log home of Ezekiel Good, an early settler. The specifications were that it was to be built of hewn logs, 18x24 feet, the logs to face one foot on an average, the house to be two stories high, the lower story to be eight feet between floors and the second story to be six feet below the roof, to have one door below, with one window below and above; door to be cased and to have a good strong shutter; the windows to contain twelve lights or panes of glass, 8x10; two good plank floors to be laid down rough; roof to be double covered with boards, weight poles to be shaven, cracks to be filled on the inside with shaven boards, and crammed on the outside with straw or grass well mixed with mud; all to be completed in a strong manner. The record shows that one payment was made for $48.33; one for $57.33 and another for $23. If this was all of the expense, it shows that the building with benches and bar cost a total of $128.66. The contract was let to Seth Hodges. For the purpose of fixing the permanent seat of justice of Macoupin county, the following persons were appointed commissioners: Seth Hodges, Joseph Borough, John Harris, Shadrack Reddick and Ephriam Powers. Before the log court house was built the Commissioner's court met in different places—in the homes of some of the commissioners. This was the first court house built in Macoupin county and it is claimed that it was the first one erected west of the state of Ohio.

The Second Court House

For ten years this crude log house served as the frontier seat of justice and answered all of the requirements of that early period. Finally it became too small for the growing needs of the time, and at a special term of court held in 1836, plans were outlined for the erection of a more modern and commodious building. Plans were adopted for a two-story structure to cost $15,000. It was to be of brick and was 50x50 feet. The plans were drawn by Dr. J. R. Lewis and were adopted by the county commissioners. The court house had a belfry on top. Before court was called into session some officer or citizen was directed to ring the bell which was notification that the mill of justice was about to begin to grind. Harbird Weatherford and Jefferson Weatherford were designated by the court as two of the "undertakers" to erect the building. The record also shows that J. Greathouse was associated with the Weatherfords in constructing the building. It was the first order of the court that the window sills were to be



The second Court House of 1838-40, built of brick and costing $15,000. It was sold and torn down in 1869.

of stone. Later this was changed and walnut sills were put in. This saved the county $175. In March of 1840 this building was officially received. The court house was surrounded by a fence which cost $230. The building was wrecked in 1869. The bell which had done service was sold and was bought by the congregation of St. Paul's Episcopal church of Carlinville, in whose possession it remains today. Back in the early fifties, Abraham Lincoln, then a struggling young lawyer, tried a chancery case in this court house. The record of an order in Lincoln's own handwriting is now on file in the office of the circuit clerk. No doubt but that Lincoln appeared in other cases in this old court house. This building had two corridors running through it, the one north and south and the other east and west. Quite a number of people now living in Carlinville remember this court house.

When the Trouble Began

After a period of about thirty years the brick court house was deemed to be inadequate for the growing needs of the county, and the building of a third court house, and the one about which this story has to deal, was ordered. This was in 1867 and at that time the county court, as commissioners, had full charge of the county's affairs. The first official record covering the erection of the present court house, that was to play such an important part in the history of the people of Macoupin county, is as follows and is taken from the county court of March, 1867:

> "Ordered that A. McKim Dubois and George H. Holliday be associated with T. L. Loomis, county judge, and Isham J. Peebles, County Justice, as commissioners, to erect a new court house in the City of Carlinville, Illinois, foundation to be laid this year, and the building to be completed before the expiration of the term of office of the present court; said court house not to be commenced until there is sufficient money in the county treasury to pay the present indebtedness of the county.
>
> "Ordered that a levy of 50 cents on each $100 value of property in Macoupin county for the year 1867, real, personal and mixed, be made for the purpose of erecting said court house, and that the clerk extend said tax on the collector's books for the year 1867, and that it be collected as their taxes for county purposes."

Judge Loomis was constituted agent of the county to close all contracts. The commissioners at once consulted E. E. Meyers, a Springfield, Illinois, architect, and the plans submitted by him were adopted. He was appointed superintendent of the work. Soon vast heaps of stone and iron began to assume shape and the great structure was under way. In 1867 the legislature of Illinois passed an act authorizing the county court to borrow money to build the court house. The act further authorized them to raise money to liquidate all indebtedness that might accrue in building the court house and for that purpose they were authorized to borrow a sum not to exceed $50,000. In any event the building was not to cost more than $175,000.00. This act was the real starting point from which so much litigation grew and around which so many stirring scenes were to center in the future. At the June term of the county court it was ordered that county orders be issued to bear interest at the rate of 10% and the amount was to be $20,000.00. They were to run for ten years.

The court further ordered that $50,000.00 in bonds be issued to run for a period of ten years and to bear interest at 10%. By September over $13,000.00 had been expended and the foundation was far enough along for the ceremony of laying the corner stone. This was done in October, 1867, with the Masons in charge. John M. Woodson, first mayor of Carlinville, and a prominent citizen, was the orator of the day. Mr. Woodson afterwards moved to St. Louis, where he died about six years ago.

The Cost Keeps Growing

It was plainly evident at the time the corner stone was laid that the building then under course of construction could not be finished for anything like the amount of money that was at first contemplated. At the December term of court it was found that the cost would be so heavy that it was ordered that the senators and representatives in Congress be asked to have a special act passed granting the county the right to import free of duty, all building material needed in the construction of the edifice. It is not known whether this was actually done. The building continued apace and at the special term of court held in January, 1869, the county agent, Judge T. L. Loomis, reported the immense sum of $449,604.07 had been paid out up to that time and the building was not yet finished. The great dome and the roof had been contracted for at an estimated cost of $125,115.00.

More bonds were issued and the work was continued and when at the September term, 1869, Judge Loomis made his report as county agent, it was seen that the enormous sum of $838,540.77 had been expended and the building was still not finished. It was at this term of court that the old court house, costing originally $15,000.00, was sold by order of the court and brought a total of $856.35, including safes and furniture. It was torn down. The total assessed value of property at that time in Macoupin county was, according to the official report of the county assessor, $7,274,186.00. Among the items of expense noted in the report of Judge Loomis for September were those of Deakman & Messenger, a Chicago firm, who had the contract for the stone and brick work. One single item was a bill for $50,000.00, and another for $49,000.00, and many smaller sums, paid to this firm alone. This will give some idea as to how the grand total grew and grew.

In January, 1870, a new court had been elected as follows: P. C. Huggins, County Judge; Martin Olmsted and Andrew A. Atkins, Associate Justices. These gentlemen were confronted with a mighty task of trying to find some method by which this great debt could be met.

People Begin to Protest

During these three years of building this court house a fierce opposition had grown up against what was termed a "flagrant and outrageous violation of law" in expending this money. Meetings of protest had been held and threats had been openly made against the men who had piled this mighty debt upon the people in direct opposition to their will. At the January term of court Gen. John I. Rinaker and Hon. C. A. Walker, of Carlinville, lawyers of statewide reputation, came before the court in behalf of the people, and formally petitioned it to declare illegal the taxes known as the "court house tax" and "bond tax." The motion was sustained by the court and the sheriff was formally directed not to collect this tax which was so obnoxious to the people. The court further empolyed an attorney to look after the interests

of Macoupin county. Letters were openly addressed to the court through the local newspapers denouncing the tax and still others were printed saying that it should be collected. It was found when the coupons were presented for payment that some of the bonds had been duplicated. Numbers on many bonds failed to agree with the numbers on the bond register. It was ordered that no bonds or coupons be paid until they had been presented to the court for approval.

By February, 1869, the building was up to the cornice. So much excitement had been created by the meetings of protest that it had the effect of calling into question the legality of the acts of the county court. No further funds could be obtained to push the work to completion. The legislature being in session, men were sent to Springfield and succeeded in getting a special act passed entitled, "An Act to legalize certain acts of the county court of Macoupin County and to enable it to complete a court house in said county." This was approved March 9, 1869. A monster meeting of the people was held in Carlinville to protest against the passage of this bill. The order of the county court, directing the sheriff not to collect the special tax and the bond tax, had involved the county in numerous law suits which had brought about a maze of legal tangle. Judgments were obtained against the county and a mandamus was issued by the United States court at Springfield to compel the levy and collection of the taxes. In 1870 Macoupin County had adopted township organization and the mandamus was directed against the members of the Board of Supervisors in February, 1874. The board was with the people and a majority of them absented themselves from the jurisdiction of the court. A resolution was unanimously adopted appropriating $18,000.00 for the use of the chairman in "court house suits." This money was used to pay the fines of absentees who were in contempt of court. Of course the record does not say that in plain words, but that is what the money was used for.

Bonds Refunded

After struggling with the question until 1877 the Board of that year made the definite proposition to fund the debt at 75c on the dollar at 6% interest to run for 20 years. This was submitted at the election of January 5, 1878, and was approved by the voters. The amount outstanding at that time was $1,380,500.00. The new bonds were issued to the amount of $1,036,000.00. Twenty years later the bonds were again funded. This time the amount was $720,000.00 at 4½%.

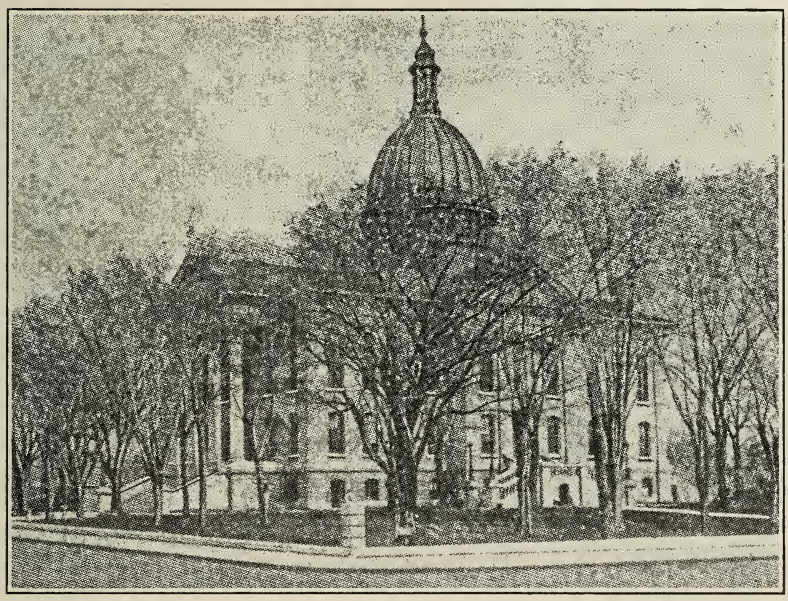
But the funding of the bonds did not release the Board of Supervisors from worries over the court house debt. When the people voted to approve the refund there were many holders of the securities who refused to surrender their paper according to the terms as endorsed by the people. These persistent and non-conforming bondholders brought suit in the United States court at Springfield, and in many instances got judgments against Macoupin county. In 1881 most of the members of the Board were summoned to Carlinville to show cause why they should not be held in contempt of court for refusing to levy a tax to pay the bondholders who demanded dollar for dollar and refused to accept anything less. The Board appointed a committee to go to Springfield in July of 1881 and secure information and report at the September meeting as to the judgments rendered against the county. The com-

mittee reported that judgments to the amount of $73,568.90, with interest at 6 per cent, were on record at Springfield. A motion was made at the September meeting that the taxing authorities be instructed to make the necessary levy to pay the judgments. It failed to carry by the narrow margin of 8 to 7.

Members of the Board who opposed the bondholders who held out for one hundred cents on the dollar, made speeches warning of the consequences of letting the bars down to a flood of such payments if they did not stand firm against it. It was estimated that bonds to the amount of $280,000 were held on which full payment was demanded. They were held by individuals and corporations. The Aetna Life Insurance Company held quite a lot of them. A Carlinville man, now deceased, was the holder of a large block of the paper. It was estimated that had the county surrendered to the demands for full payment it would have cost the taxpayers $500,000 in principal and interest, in addition to the payments which the funding proposition called for.

Is Imposing Building

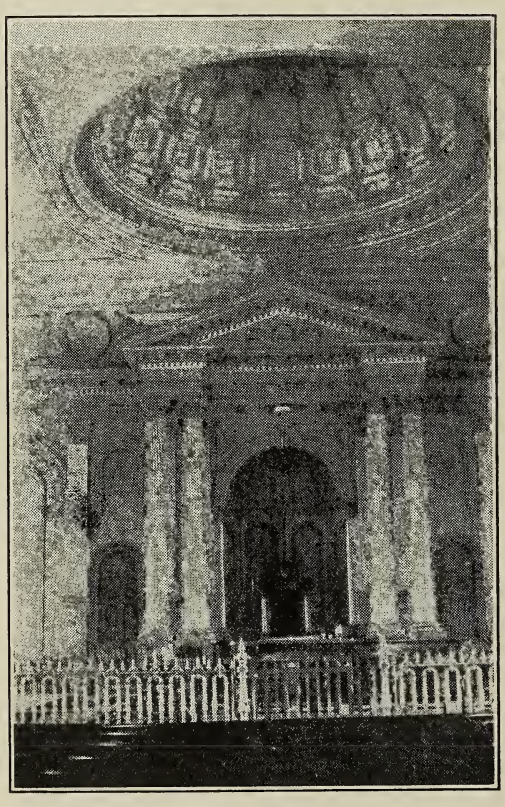
The court house was officially completed in 1870 and is a beautiful structure constructed of magnesian limestone. The building is a rectangle,



The Court House as it Appears To-day.

181 feet in length by 80 feet wide, crossed in equal distance from north to south ends by a transverse rectangle of smaller dimensions, the plan resembling an elongated Swiss cross, or a cross of St. George, of double width. It is of Corinthian style of architecture. It is divided into three floors. The basement is 12 feet in height, main floor 16, the upper floor, which is occupied as a court room, is 32 feet high. The height of the building from the cornice to the ground is 69½ feeet. The roof is surmounted by a large dome.

The height from the apex of the dome to the ground is 191 feet, giving the dome an altitude of almost 100 feet. The main entrance is on the north and is reached by 22 stone steps, flanked on both sides by low walls of masonry, capped with cut stone, leading up to the portico. Supporting the roof of the portico are four Corinthian columns 40 feet in height, four feet in diameter at the base and three and one-half feet at the top. The south entrance is constructed the same as the north. The steps at the east and west entrances are laid parallel wtih the building, ascending from north and south and meeting upon a platform. For many years these east and west entrances were used regularly. But later they were closed and the long narrow hallways on either side are now used for offices. At all of the entrances were lamp posts of iron, highly ornamental. During the reconstruction work these lamp posts were removed. The floors of the building are laid with tile. At the northwest, northeast, southeast and southwest on the ground floor, are entrances. Every door in the building, when constructed was of iron, which includes the doors to the offices. The long corridor on the main floor has a small arch in the center supported by iron columns. The upper floor is reached by two wide iron stairways at the right and left on entering the building. At the south end of the corridor is a stairway leading up to the rear of the court room, and also to the fourth floor, just under the dome. The front stairways are ornamented with flowers done in iron and other designs. The balustrade of the main stairways at the north are ornamented with dogs heads done in iron. On the front of each of the double iron doors opening into the court room, is a lion's head with a large ring in its mouth.



Interior view of the Court Room, showing the judge's bench; the $1500 chair and the interior of the dome. The iron fence around the bar is seen in the foreground.

The court room is 60x74 feet. From the interior of the dome a large chandelier was suspended, upon which were 56 gas burners. It cost $3,000. The walls are of tall shield-like panels of iron. The ceiling is finished in

iron with three shell-like circular ornaments of the same material. At the rear of the room on either side two small chandeliers were suspended. The window frames throughout the building are of iron. Each window contains four panes of glass. Above the windows on the second floor are circular iron frames each containing eight panes of glass of varied colors. The judge's bench which stands at the south end of the court room is of marble of different colors. It stands beneath a portico which is supported by four fluted columns. In front is the bar surrounded by an iron fence, and raised about two feet above the main floor. Back of the court room are the jury rooms and the rooms for the officers of the court.

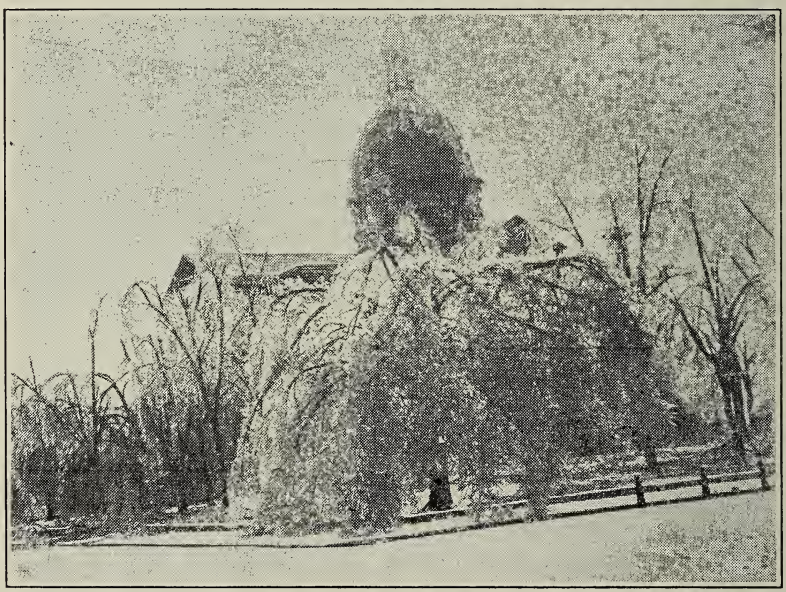
The judge's chair is of hand carved walnut and is seven feet in height. It is finished in crimson plush. It is a beautiful piece of work and there is probably none other like it in a court room in the United States. This chair always attracts the attention of visitors by its size and unusual beauty. The cost of this chair was $1500.00.

Underneath the roof at the south of the dome is a large iron tank of 8,000 gallons capacity. It was used to supply the water for the building. A small steam engine located in the basement pumped the water from two big cisterns located on either side of the building in the court house park. The water was carried to the cisterns from the roof and then pumped into the tank. Gravity carried the water, which was piped to all parts of the building. The plant was discontinued when the City of Carlinville installed a water system many years ago. The roof of the building is of heavy iron. When the court house was completed it did not contain a foot of combustible material. The building is heated by a steam plant in the southeast corner of the basement. A tunnel arched with rock runs under the floor of the basement corridor. This tunnel contains the main steam and gas pipes and was constructed so that access might be had to them for repairs or replacement. It is four feet in diameter. Upon the completion of the building, and until the summer of 1934, the building was lighted with gas. The court house is in the center of an attractive park of about an acre and a half and is one block east of the public square. It was originally surrounded by an iron fence and a sidewalk of limestone. The record shows that the contract price of the walk and fence was $15,000. Double iron gates were originally placed at the north and south entrances of the park and single gates at the east and west. They were swung from stone pillars and each pillar was ornamented at the top with an acorn carved in stone. Some years ago the Board of Supervisors ordered the fence and gates taken down and sold for old iron. This was done but the stuff brought little money. The stone foundation upon which the fence rested still stands.

Court House Site Cost $24,800.

The site of the present court house was originally composed of sixteen lots in the old plat and Edward's, Smith and McAfee's addition to Carlinville, located in block six, East, which means east of the square. The records show that the county of Macoupin paid $24,800 for the tract. As early as 1863, Judge Loomis and his associates, G. W .A. Cloud and Thomas B. Rice, made the first move towards building the new court house. In that year William North and his wife, Nancy North, and William P. Scott and his wife, of St. Louis sold lots 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 and 8, to John A. Chestnut for $1000.

Later the title was acquired by Nicholas Boice, and in the same year Mr. Boice sold the lots to the county for $1,300. The title was taken in the name of Judge T. L. Loomis, and his associates, G.W.A. Cloud and Thomas B. Rice, and their successors in office. In 1867, Ellen Andrews and her husband, Cyrus Andrews, conveyed to the county of Macoupin lot 69 and the east half of lot 70, for which they received $3,500. In the same year Jonas U. Grove bought from William M. Maddox and his wife, Elvira A. Maddox, part of lot 70 and lots 71 and 72. He paid $10,000. Mr. Grove sold the lots to the county for $15,000. April 2nd, 1867, Malcom McCuaig and his wife, Lydia McCuaig, sold lots 97, 98, 99 and 100 to the county, and they received $5,000.



An unusual view of the Court House and grounds, showing the effects of the great sleet storm of December, 1924.

Part of the court house park was owned at one time by Samuel Couch, a wealthy bachelor of New Hartford, Conn. He was also the owner of land northwest of Carlinville. Mr. Couch was a relative of Geo. L. Brown and the latter at one time owned and lived on the farm one mile west of the county seat on the hard road, now owned by Walter Denby and occupied by his son, Gordon Denby and family.

Jonas U. Grove had an eye for a thrifty dollar. In buying the lots from Mr. and Mrs. Maddox for $10,000 and selling them to the county for $15,000, he made $5,000. Mr. Grove at one time was the owner of the Grove flour mill; bought grain and in the closing years of his life was a dealer in produce. He was located in a wooden building which stood on the site of the store of L. E. Ross & Son. Mr. Grove was a good citizen and was well liked.

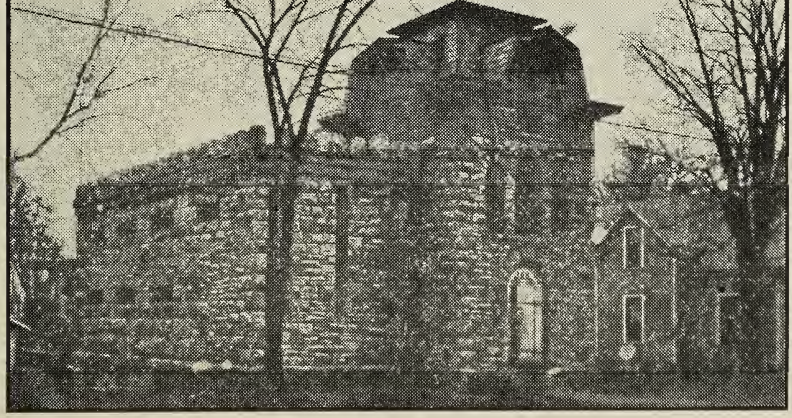
Mr. and Mrs. Maddox were prominent residents of Carlinville. They

lived in a pretentious two story brick house at what is now the northwest corner of the court house square. Their home was said to be the finest in the county seat. He conducted a grocery store in about the middle of the block on the east side of the square, south of East Main street. Malcom McCuaig and his wife resided on the south side of the court house site. Locally the name was pronounced "McQuade." The records show that the correct spelling is "McCuaig."

At about the center of the site, facing East Main street, was the home of Mrs. Hannah Underkoeffler. She was ill at the time work on the foundation started and before she had recovered and was able to leave, the entire tract of ground had been surrounded with a board fence about ten feet in height. The fence was put up to keep out the curious and to prevent accidents. Only workmen and the privileged could come and go at will. All others had to have cards signed by someone in authority before they could enter.

Jail Site Cost $850.

The cost of the site upon which the Macoupin county jail is located was $850. The deed was recorded October 5, 1867, and the property is described as "57¾ feet off of the west side of lot 102, of the old plat of Carlinville." The purchase was made from A. S. Ruark and his wife, Eliza Jane Ruark, and the price was $800. The witness to the signatures on the deed was John T. Rogers. The jail is located almost due south of the court house on East First South street. It faces the north. In 1881 the officials of the county decided that they needed more room on the jail lot and Mary J. C. McKee and husband, Thomas R. McKee, sold to the county eight and one-quarter feet off of the east side of lot 102. The price paid was $50. This makes the lot sixty-six feet in width. As far back as 1836, the record discloses that lots 101, 102, 103, 104, 133, 134, 135, 136 were sold by Tristram Hoxsey and wife to James Anderson, John M. Smith and Isaac McAfee for $2,000.



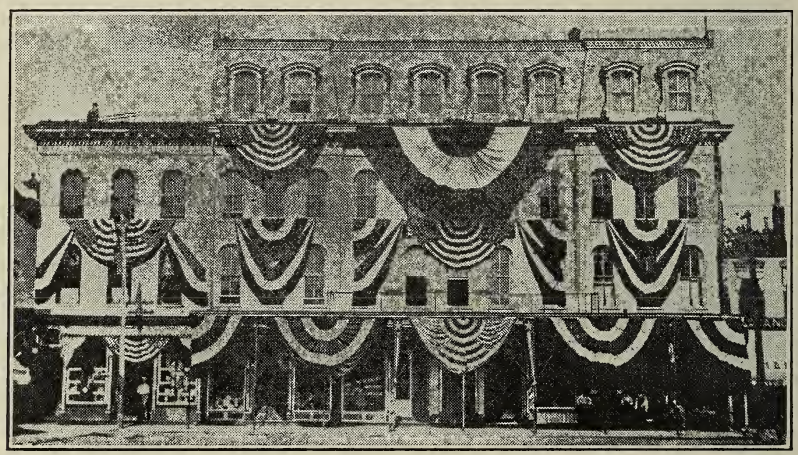
Macoupin County Jail, Erected in 1869.

The County Jail

The county jail was constructed at the same time as was the court house. It stands just across the street to the south. One peculiarity of its construction is that each stone was hollowed out at the end and a cannon ball placed in each joint to prevent any single stone being removed by a prisoner who should attempt this method to gain his liberty. The jail is two stories with a basement. So far as the records show the cannon ball method of construction has proved effective. The contract price for the jail was $14,000.

Men Who Suffered Blame

A large size volume could be written about the men and events connected with the building of the Macoupin County Court House and yet the story would probably not be complete in all details. The late General John M. Palmer, at one time governor, and later United States Senator from Illinois, was prominently connected with its history as advisor and attorney



The "Loomis House," the four-story hotel on the east side of the square, built by Judge T. L. Loomis in 1869. The view shows the decorations during the celebration of July, 1910. The building is faced or veneered with the same kind of stone used on the exterior of the court house. It has for many years been known as the St. George Hotel.

for the commissioners during the trouble. But the two men around whom the storm of opposition and villification centered the greatest were Judge Thaddeus L. Loomis and County Clerk George H. Holliday. Judge Loomis was a man of strong character, aggressive, fearless and able. It was he who was the power behind the throne, the "Iron Chancellor" who did not falter nor turn back. He was much abused and villified. But strange to say there are few if any men then or today, who believed that he ever secured any private gain from the building of the court house. Even the local newspapers said that there was no stain on his private character. Certainly a remarkable tribute to him after going through those strenuous times. He lived to a ripe old age. He died in Alton January 15, 1910. His remains were brought to Carlinville and were interred in the city cemetery with

Masonic honors almost in the shadow of the great dome of the building which he had all but lived to see paid for. In 1869 Judge Loomis built the "Loomis House," the four story hotel on the east side of the square. For many years it has been the "'St. George Hotel" and is now owned by T. C. Loehr.

George H. Holliday was a man of culture and his friends said of "superior education." He was a persistent reader and was a connoiseur of books. He had one of the finest libraries in the West, which contained many rare volumes. After his disappearance his books were shipped to New York, where they were sold. He had journalistic ambitions and in 1855 he bought from Jefferson L. Dugger the "Macoupin Statesman," and changed it to "The Spectator." He conducted it until 1857 when he sold the paper and devoted much of his time to writing for some of the leading magazines. The Spectator was Democratic in politics.

The suburban home of Geo. H. Holliday in the Fourth ward, built by him in 1860. The architect and supervising builder was L. W. Mounts, father of the late Senator W. L. Mounts. For many years it has been the home of Mrs. W. L. Mounts.

One night back in 1870, Mr. Holliday boarded a train on the Chicago & Alton railroad and disappeared. From that day until the present no positive trace of him was ever found. About a year after he disappeared it was rumored that he was seen in New York City. And later the body of a man was found below Niagara Falls. Authorities there telegraphed to Carlinville for a description of Mr. Holliday but it did not tally with the description of the missing county clerk. Following Mr. Holliday's leaving Carlinville, a grand jury returned an indictment against him for his part in connection with the building of the court house. In justice to him it should be said that whether or not he was actually guilty of any wrong doing in the building of the court house, was not proved because he was never brought to trial and the true facts brought out.

After he left, his family continued to reside in Carlinville for a number

of years and were always treated with respect and consideration, no odium being attached to them in any way.

Was He Geo. H. Holliday?

Along in the early eighties, a wave of excitement swept over Macoupin county, when it became known that a man had been arrested in the state of Washington, said to be Geo H. Holliday. He was held until Daniel Delaney, a deputy sheriff who knew him, was sent west to bring the suspect back to Carlinville. When Mr. Delaney arrived the prisoner was taken to the court house where hundreds of people viewed him. The arrival of the prisoner was the signal for almost a county-wide suspension of work as the people flocked to the county seat in the excitement of the day. The man said that his name was Hall. He smiled and spoke pleasantly with everyone he met and did not seem the least put out by the rather annoying experience he went through. When it was all over he was not identified as the long missing county clerk. A few of the many who knew Mr. Holliday, insisted that it was he. But the majority who looked at the stranger said that he was not the man wanted.

The most positive evidence was given by Mrs. Holliday. When she learned that the stranger was in town, she promptly went to the St. George hotel where he was stopping, and demanded that the man be presented before her. This was done and after gazing steadily at "Mr. Hall" she said: "This is not Geo. H. Holliday," turned and walked away. At the time the suspect was brought to Carlinville Mrs. Holliday and her children were living about one mile west, in a house now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. Charles M. Nixon, on the north side of the hard road.

A few years following the Hall incident Mrs. Holliday and children moved to Clinton, Missouri. A Carlinville man (now deceased) was living in Clinton and he knew Mr. Holliday and family well. Returning to Carlinville from Clinton for a visit he told the following story: "One evening about 9 o'clock I was passing the Holliday home in Clinton. I noticed that all of the curtains at the front and the sides of the house were drawn. This excited my curiosity and I walked around to the back of the home. One of the curtains was up about a foot and I looked in. There were assembled Mr. and Mrs. Holliday and all of the children. I guess that it was a family re-union."

This citizen insisted that he could not be mistaken as to the identity of Mr. Holliday. At any rate it is another incident during those exciting times when rumors flew thick and fast as to Mr. Holliday having been seen at this or that place.

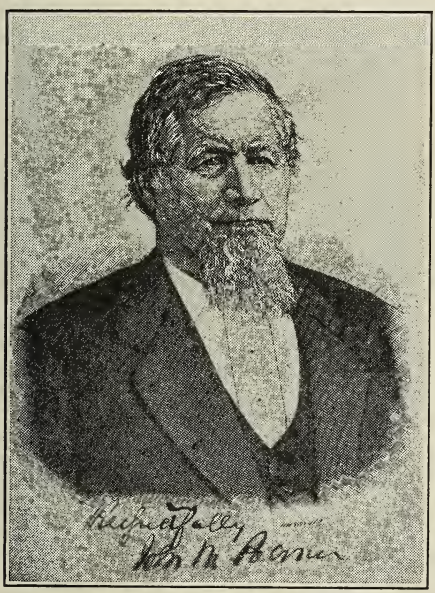
After Mr. Hall had been released and had gone his way, much talk went the rounds about the affair. It was whispered by some and openly charged by others, that Holliday had actually been arrested in Washington and that on the way East he had been released and Mr. Hall substituted in his place. Was that done? That question has never been authentically answered.

Gen. Palmer and the Court House

Gen. John M. Palmer was Governor of Illinois in 1869 when the controversy over the building of the new court house was at its highest pitch. He was an active supporter of the county commissioners, and of the bill which was passed, legalizing the acts of the county court, and making it possible

to finance and complete the building. He took the view that the building should not be left unfinished and for that reason supported the measure before the legislature. He made many enemies at that time. But none of those who opposed his course, ever accused him of gaining anything wrongfully from the affair. His sole motive was his love for the people and his admiration for and loyalty to his home city and county of Macoupin. His character was above reproach.

Gen. Palmer was born in Kentucky in 1817. He came to Macoupin county in 1839. He underwent great privations in his youth but surmounted all obstacles. He studied law and was admitted to the bar, with Stephen A. Douglas as one of his sponsors. He was strongly opposed to slavery and was a personal friend and political coworker of Abraham Lincoln. He was on the platform with Lincoln when the latter spoke in Carlinville August 31, 1858. When the civil war broke out Gen. Palmer organized the 14th Illinois volunteer infantry and was chosen its colonel. He served during the war and came out of that conflict a brigadier general. He had a wide reputation as a great criminal lawyer.



Gen. John M. Palmer

Gen. Palmer was Governor of Illinois in 1869-72; was elected United States senator from his state; was the candidate for president on the Democratic "gold" ticket during the unforgettable silver campaign of 1896, when William Jennings Bryan carried the banner for the democrats. Gen. Palmer's running mate for the vice presidency was the Confederate General Buckner. Gen. Palmer owned a farm southwest of Carlinville where for many years he came for periods of rest and recreation. In the later years of his life he lived in Springfield where he died September 25, 1900. His remains were interred in the Carlinville City cemetery with simple but impressive rites, witnessed by a large number of people from all walks of life. Directly behind the hearse walked an old negro, whose name was Mose Drakeford. At the close of the war Gen. Palmer brought Mose to Macoupin county where he worked for the General for many years. During the services at the grave Mose stood at a respectful distance, tears streaming down his coal black face. It was genuine grief that Mose manifested over the departure of his friend and benefactor. A stone of modest proportions marks Gen. Palmer's last resting place. Besides the date of his birth and death are these words: "Lawyer," "Soldier," "Statesman."

John Moran

The history of the present court house would hardly be complete without a word about the late John Moran, one of the most picturesque characters Carlinville ever knew. By birth he was an Irishman. He came to Carlinville in 1863 and practiced law in Macoupin county for nearly fifty years. All of the older generation of this community remember him. From the very outset he vigorously opposed the method by which the court house was built and financed. He contended that its erection was illegal and on that basis, refused to pay the tax. He went even farther than that, because the records as far back as 1879 down to 1926, show that he did not pay any taxes. Of course his property was offered at the delinquent sales and at first was bid in occasionally. But the buyer soon found that he had a law suit on his hands, because Mr. Moran promptly went to court and contested the sale. For many, many years there were no buyers for his property at the delinquent sales for the reason already given.

In 1927, following his death, his property was sold by the state. It consisted of a residence and several lots located in Hoxsey and Edwards addition, situated near the south end of Locust street, not far from Cogan's Green. The total accumulations amounted to $12,010.46. The penalties alone amounted to $2,394.78. The sale netted something like $300. It was probably the most unusual tax sale ever held in the county. Mr. Moran was below the average height and weight and wore a beard. He was aggressive, dearly loved an argument and was, at times, pugnacious. Mentally and physically he was always ready to back up any proposition he espoused. No one who knew him well, ever doubted his courage, because he demonstrated it on numerous occasions.

His special aversions were: the court house tax, vested interests, office holders and politicians in general. He would argue on the street corner, in the band stand in the park, or wherever he deemed the situation demanded it. His language was, at times, more forceful than eloquent. When he was engaged in one of his oratorical efforts he was oblivious to time and his surroundings. Mr. Moran was well informed and could talk on any subject. If you chose to argue on ancient or modern history, geography, astronomy, grammar, politics or whatnot, he would accommodate you on the spot. The originality and uniqueness of his train of thought was something to cause the listener much astonishment. He maintained an excellent library at his home, was a constant reader and had a very retentive memory. Whether or not he was a graduate of a college, there is no available record to show.

Mr. Moran wrote two books. One was entitled "Searching the Records," which was published in 1898. It contained 202 pages and was divided into eleven chapters, as follows: Confusion, The Tax Question, City Taxation, Mortgagor and Mortgagee, Federal Taxation, The Three Court Houses, Education, The Churches, Success, Money, The New Court House. In his book "Searching the Records," Mr. Moran enlarged on his objections to the court house tax. He quoted the statute in force in January, 1829, passed by the legislature in session at Vandalia, creating the county of Macoupin and fixing the site for the permanent seat of justice. This seat of justice is what now constitutes the present public square in Carlinville. One of the con-

tentions that Mr. Moran advanced in his book was, that when the county commissioners bought the site of the present court house, they violated the law of 1829, which he contended fixed the square as the PERMANENT site for a court house, and the act of the county commissioners was illegal and void as to the new location.

In 1906 Mr. Moran wrote and published another book which was entitled 'Searching the Heavens and the Earth." This book contains 107 pages and is a treatise on astronomy. He expounded upon and upheld the ancient but long discarded theory that the earth stands still and the sun, moon and stars move around it. His own language quoted from his book, as follows, tells what he believed. "I see the sun, moon and stars move. I don't see the earth move. I see or know that the atmosphere surrounds it and presses on to it all around equally, which is so powerful as to hold it to its place—immovable forever. These things I know I know. The multitude can not change it."

Mr. Moran also declared that there was no such thing as gravity. Asked one time to explain why all falling objects were attracted to the earth, he replied, "It is the pressure of the air." He said that he took pride in the fact that he was the first man to prove that the earth stands still, and that the theory of gravity is false. In spite of his odd makeup, Mr. Moran was possessed of some admirable traits of character. If he did not agree with you on a subject he left no doubt in your mind as to his attitude. When he expressed his opinion you did not have to look into the dictionary to find out what he meant. He always spoke with pride and affection of his family which consisted of his wife and two talented daughters. When advancing age caused Mrs. Moran to fall ill with a mental trouble she was committed to the state hospital at Jacksonville for treatment. At the hearing held before the county court, Mr. Moran asked and received permission to accompany his wife to the institution that he might be with her to do what he could to comfort her in her affliction. "Forsaking all others" he stood by her side until death claimed her. Mr. and Mrs. Moran died about eight years ago. The daughters passed away some years prior to the death of their parents.

This is the story of the building of the $1,380,500 Macoupin county court house which at one time gained for the county almost national fame.

Debt of Forty Years Standing

For forty years the debt hung over Macoupin county like a financial pall. It was the favorite topic of conversation among the citizens of the county. At tax paying time it was bitterly denounced by most all people who had to make their annual contribution to the county treasurer. So far and wide had the story of the court house and its debt traveled, that it damaged the county as to land values. Prospective purchasers of land in Macoupin county and especially those not residents of the county, shook their heads after making inquiry as to the price per acre. "Your court house debt is a burden and must be taken into consideration if we buy land," was almost the invariable comment of those who actually considered buying a farm in the great "state of Macoupin."

But what strange tricks time and events play in the lives of men. The court house debt was a burden and no doubt did, to some extent, damage

the land values in the county. But since the debt was lifted in 1910 slowly but surely through the intervening years following the burning of the last bond, taxes have risen steadily and are double what they were when the last bond was paid and the original debt wiped out. Macoupin county again has a bonded debt of considerable figures.

Two Days' Jubilee Held

In the spring of 1910 the glad news spread over the county that there was enough money in the treasury to pay off the debt. The Board of Supervisors announced that the last bond would be paid and the debt cancelled. There was much rejoicing and a county wide celebration was proposed. This met with the unanimous approval of the people and plans for the event were begun. It was announced that the date for the celebration would be July 20 and 21. The Board of Supervisors appointed committees to proceed with the plans and appropriated $500.00 to help defray the expenses.

Not only did the Board sponsor officially the occasion but the people over the entire county joined heartily in the matter. The city council of Carlinville, with Hon. Jesse Peebles as Mayor, took notice of the affair and appointed committees to assist in the working out of the plans and preparing a program. The various committees worked steadily with the view to making the event the greatest in the history of the county. Merchants and citizens not officially on the committees put their shoulders to the wheel with an enthusiasm seldom manifested. The two county seat newspapers, The Carlinville Democrat and the Macoupin County Enquirer, gave generously of their columns for items that would assist in making the Jubilee the crowning event in the county's long and eventful history. They were cordially supported by all other papers of the county which did their part to help put the affair over in grand style.

Opening Day of the Jubilee

Wednesday, July 20th, was the opening day of the celebration and Jubilee. There was an elaborate program, with large crowds present to enjoy the proceedings. Outstanding on the day's program were the addresses by Gen. John I. Rinaker, Hon. C. A. Walker and Hon. W. E. P. Anderson. Each of these men had been active on the side of the people in the trying and thrilling years of the court house trouble Each from his own personal experience and recollection gave first hand facts of importance that made local history. The big audience which surrounded the grandstand in the court house park heard them with the closest attention, interrupting each speaker with great outbursts of applause. A spirit of good will and gaiety prevailed in the crowds, a forerunner of greater things on the morrow.

Macoupin County's Greatest Day

Those living in Macoupin county or elsewhere today, who attended this debt paying Jubilee, and were old enough to know what it was all about, will never forget July 21st, 1910, at Carlinville. It was a joyful, happy throng. The people were in holiday mood. Speeches were made by Governor Deneen, Congressman Rodenberg and John Mitchell, former president of the United Mine Workers of America.

Early in the morning visitors began to arrive. Special trains were run on the McKinley (Traction) lines and over the Chicago & Alton railroad. All

Macoupin Co. Jubilee & Celebration
Carlinville, Illinois
WEDNESDAY and THURSDAY,
JULY 20-21

THE county is out of debt. The last bond will be publicly burned July 21. The event is going to be celebrated at Carlinville with a monster two-days' Jubilee. The following is the

— PROGRAM —

WEDNESDAY, JULY 20

2:00 P. M. Speaking in court house yard
4:00 Athletic events
8:00 Elaborate display of fire works
Band concerts

THURSDAY, JULY 21

11:00 A. M. Reception of Speakers
11:30 Great Automobile Parade (Prizes awarded for best decorated Automobiles)
2:00 P. M., Court House Square Address of Welcome
Mayor Jesse Peebles
2:15 Address, concluding with burning of last bond
Governor Charles S. Deneen
2:45 Address
Hon. David R. Francis, ex-Governor of Missouri
3:15 Address
Hon. John Mitchell, former president United Workers of America
3:45 Brief Addresses by Congressman Rodenberg, Graham and Rainey; Hon. John Woodson and prominent Macoupin county citizens.
8:00 Band Concerts

Everybody is Glad the Great County is out of Debt! Let Everybody Join in the Jubilee!

Order of Committee

Reproduction of Handbill Advertising the Jubilee.

were crowded to standing room. Two trains from the branch line of the Chicago & Alton from the west, brought in ten coaches each, with one thousand passengers aboard. In addition to their regular service the Traction line ran special cars at only short distances apart, which were all filled. The assembled thousands filled the streets and sidewalks in almost a solid mass for blocks from the business section. The court house park was filled with its quota of visitors. The court house was the center of attraction for thousands who had a curiosity to see the famous structure.

Crowd Estimated at 20,000

The crowd was estimated at 20,000 people. Everything was orderly and there was but one accident. Miss Olive Bramley, of Hagaman, was slightly injured by an automobile. There were bands present from Brighton, Mt. Olive, Virden, Benld and Dorchester. They were stationed at various points in the city and furnished music during the day. The chief event of the morning was the automobile parade under the direction of B. M. Burke. There were one hundred cars, all beautifully decorated. The parade formed on West Main street and was one-half mile in length. It traversed the main streets of the city, covering four miles. Prizes were awarded for the two most handsomely decorated machines. The first prize was won by A. Paul & Company and the second by Bruce H. Mounts, both of Carlinville. There were many beautiful cars and they were admired by thousands who lined the streets to see the display.

The following distinguished visitors and speakers arrived at 11:00 o'clock on a special car over the Traction line: Congressman W. A. Rodenberg; Postmaster J. D. Messick and party of friends from East St. Louis. A private car from the north at twelve o'clock brought Governor Charles S. Deneen; Adjutant General Frank S. Dickson, and H. Clay Wilson, candidate for congress from the twenty-first district; Congressman James M. Graham, of Springfield; former Congressman Ben F. Caldwell, Chatham; Auditor J. S. McCullough; Judge James A. Creighton, of Springfield. The car was under the personal supervision of the late Geo. W. Quackenbush, traffic manager of the Traction system.

Mayor Peebles Introduces Deneen

At the same time a special car brought from St. Louis, John Mitchell, former president of the United Mine Workers of America; Vice President Gross Lawrence, and Secretary Duncan McDonald, of the United Mine Workers. With them was a large committee of mine workers and municipal officials from cities of southeast Macoupin county. The distinguished visitors were accompanied by the Benld band. The speakers and guests were met at the station by a reception committee and automobiles. They were taken for luncheon in the parlors of the Methodist church. This was quite an elaborate affair and was given by the ladies of the church in honor of the guests. Following, the visitors were entertained for a time in the rooms of the Carlinville Library Association in the basement of the court house.

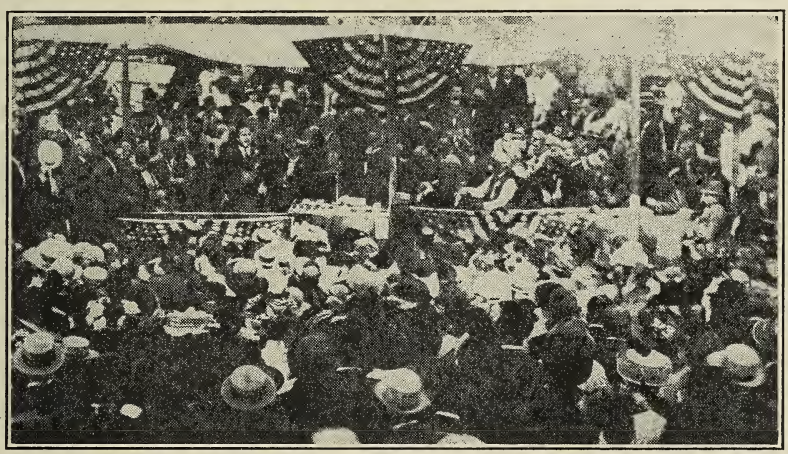
At two o'clock the speakers were escorted to the grand stand which had been erected on the east side of the court house. In a timely and appropriate address Mayor Jesse Peebles welcomed the visitors to Carlinville. He

then introduced Governor Charles S. Deneen, who was the principal speaker. He was greeted with great applause when he arose to speak. He spoke briefly but complimented in glowing terms the people of Macoupin county for their thrift and enterprise resulting as it did in the payment of the great debt which had hung over the county for so many years.

Governor Burns Last Bond

At the conclusion of the address Mayor Peebles lit the natural gas which had been piped into the court house park especially for the event. The gas had been brought right into the speakers' stand and the Mayor lit it with a match which had been sent for the event by Mrs. Ruth Kimball Gardner, who had made the story of the court house the subject of an interesting novel. She was the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H. M. Kimball, her father being editor of the Carlinville Democrat during the strenuous days of the court house trouble.

County Clerk W. C. Seehausen and a committee of the Board of Supervisors were assembled on the platform. At that time bond No. 720 for $1000.00 was handed to Governor Deneen and while the immense throng stood, the last evidence of the indebtedness was destroyed. As the bond



View showing the scene at the burning of the last court house bond, on the east side of the building, July 21st, 1910.

turned to ashes bombs were exploded, every bell rang and every whistle in Carlinville blew, while the thousands of persons joined in the singing of "America." By carefully made plans the whistle of every coal mine in the county blew at the time the bond was burned. The demonstration lasted ten minutes.

Others who spoke were John M. Mitchell, Congressman Wm. M. Rodenberg, a former resident of Carlinville; Congressman James M. Graham, of Springfield.

John M. Woodson, of St. Louis, was the first mayor of Carlinville. He came to the county seat the morning of July 21 and was to have delivered

an address. There was much disappointment when the crowd learned that he had been called home on account of urgent business.

The scene in the court house park where the speaking was held was an inspiring sight. Seats had been provided for 2000 but were sufficient only for a small portion of the throng which witnessed the exercises. Not only did the crowd fill the park and adjacent streets but it also filled the windows on the east side of the building. Never before had Carlinville witnessed such a throng as attended the burning of the last court house bond.

At the St. George hotel at 12:00 o'clock noon, Hon. W. E. P. Anderson entertained at dinner the eight surviving supervisors who were members of the Board when the bonds were refunded in 1877-1878, and the local press. Mr. Anderson was a member of the Board. A special guest of honor was Moses Eldred, who was a member of the first Board of Supervisors of the county. He was 86 years old at the time of the Jubilee.

Besides Mr. Anderson other members of the Board of 1877-78 who attended the dinner were: Rev. D. P. Deadrick, Brushy Mound; Rev. T. N. Marsh, Shipman; Geo. A. Brown, Brighton; W. A. Gardner, North Otter; George Etter, Western Mound; F. M. Henderson, Staunton.

During the two days' celebration Captain Geo. J. Castle was in charge of the arrangements for the big affair. He managed it with skill and fine judgment. Captain A. C. Hulse was chief marshal.

Fireworks Show Last Bond

The festivities at night were brilliant and thrilling. In front of the court house on East Main street there was a beautiful display of fireworks. Carlinville never in its history witnessed such a display. The concluding piece was a replica of the last bond, which lighted up the street with an enchanting glare, while the thousands stood and watched. When it finally burned out the great Jubilee was officially ended.

There was a display of natural gas on West Main street, which was given with specially constructed burners. The gas was piped into Carlinville from wells about two miles south of the city.

And there was a flight by Joseph Gillett in his biplane. Compared with the improved machines of today it was a crude affair, but people watched the plane with breathless interest. There was to have been a balloon flight by Captain John Berry, of University City, Missouri, but when partially inflated the balloon broke from its moorings and this part of the program had to be abandoned.

City Gaily Decorated

The decorations were profuse and elaborate. Every business house and many private homes were decorated with the national colors and special designs. The court house was a riot of color with the special streamers and flags from the ground to the top of the lofty dome. A large American flag floated in the breeze near the tip of the spire.

Some Interesting Sidelights

The population of Macoupin county in 1829 was 1500. The number of tax payers in the county in 1837 was 1007. They paid a total of $1789.23 into the county treasury. The average tax per person was $1.77. The heaviest tax payer in 1837 was Col. James C. Anderson. He paid a total of

$16.80. Of this amount $12.00 was for personal tax and $4.80 on lands. The total value of the assessed property in the county for 1860 was $5,097,589. The total assessed value of all property in the county for 1932 was $31,335,-291. In 1933 it was $25,172,397.

Inscriptions on the Corner Stone

The corner stone for the court house was laid October 22nd, 1867. The oartor of the day was John M. Woodson, first mayor of Carlinville. An account of the event published at that time said "the crowd was not large." The Masons were in charge of the program. The inscription facing the east is as follows, the stone being at the northeast corner of the building:

Laid by
The Most W. G. L.
A. F. & A. Masons
By
CHARLES FISHER
DEPUTY GRAND MASTER
October 22d
A. L. 5867
A. D. 1867
BUILDING COMMISSIONERS
A. McKim DuBois
Geo. H. Holliday
I. J. Peebles
T. L. Loomis

The inscription facing the north reads:

Erected
By Order of
County Court
March Term
A. D. 1867
COUNTY COURT
Thaddeus L. Loomis
Isham J. Peebles
John Yowell
E. E. Meyers
Architect

Court Room Scene of Historic Events

The court room has been the scene of many historic events. Probably the most noted criminal trial held there was what was known as the "Holmes Murder" case. On the night of May 2nd, 1895, Engineer Frank Holmes of the Chicago & Alton railroad was shot dead in his cab about a mile north of Carlinville. Three men boarded the train at the coal shaft in the city limits. The train was due in here about 11:00 o'clock and was bound for Chicago. Two of the men entered the cab and they halted the train and killed the engineer. The murder, which was a bungled attempt to rob the mail and express cars, created a tremendous sensation in southern Illinois. For about ten days the identity of the perpetrators of the crime remained a mystery,

then they were placed under arrest. Their names were Ben Myers, of Carlinville, aged about 35; Ed. Bryant, 18, and Jack Frost, 19, the two latter from Kentucky. The late P. C. Davenport was sheriff. The men were indicted by the September grand jury and were tried for murder at the same term of court with Judge Jacob Foulk presiding. The late Edward C. Knotts was state's attorney. Associated with him in the prosecution were Gen. John I. Rinaker and his son, Thomas Rinaker. Probably never before nor since was such a brilliant array of legal talent engaged in a trial in the Macoupin circuit court. The trial opened Thursday, October 11. It took three days in which to select a jury. The actual trial occupied one week. The verdict of the jury was life imprisonment for the trio. The case was bitterly contested and was marked by many dramatic clashes. The defense counsel was headed by the late United States Senator Daniel W. Vorhees, assisted by his son-in-law, Congressman Lamb, of Indianapolis. Carlinville lawyers who took part in the defense were Hon. C. A. Walker, Judge A. N. Yancey, Hon. A. H. Bell and Jesse Peebles, the latter just starting on his legal career. Senator Vorhees had a national reputation as an orator and was known as the "Tall Sycamore of the Wabash."

From the opening of the celebrated case until the jury had returned a verdict the interest of the people was intense and feeling against the prisoners was strong. The court room was crowded to suffocation every day. It was admitted by the attorneys for the defense that the speech to the jury by Senator Vorhees saved the prisoners from the gallows. It was a fatherly talk entirely devoid of heroics or oratorical flights. The following are the names of the jurors who heard the evidence: Ed. Crum, Palmyra; Oscar Sims, Modesto; William Owens, Scottville; W. England, Girard; C. J. Ballow, Hettick; Seth Smith, Woodburn; John Truesdale, Gillespie; James Etter, Palmyra; S. B. Wood, Virden; Alvis Arnold, Scottville; H. Groves, Carlinville; Albert Wilcox, Stirrup Grove. Public opinion accepted the verdict as satisfying the demands of justice.

An interesting fact about this case was that before the trial started Senator Vorhees and Mr. Bell met Judge Foulk one night in his room at the St. George hotel and offered to allow their clients to plead guilty provided the court would not inflict the death penalty. Judge Foulk's reply was: "I will see." That is as far as the matter ever went. State's Attorney Knotts objected to the proposition and the trial proceeded to the end.

The court room was the scene of many local and professional entertainments. The early day Uncle Tom's Cabin companies held forth there. Then there were the Tennessee Jubilee Singers, all colored; and the Swiss Bell Ringers, white performers. These companies came regularly for years to Carlinville.

Gen. John A. Logan, of civil war fame, spoke from its rostrum. For fifty years the annual graduating exercises of Blackburn College have been held in the court room. Memorial exercises for two presidents, who died at the hands of assassins, were held there. They were James A. Garfield and William McKinley. All politics was laid aside while the people gathered to pay their respects to the memory of the two men who held the highest office in the gift of the American people. Political rallies and conventions almost without number have been held there in the past and are today .

Chair has Interesting History

Elsewhere mention is made of the Judge's chair in the circuit court room. It has a decidedly interesting history. For many years it was out of use and was stored in one of the vacant rooms in the building. It had all but fallen to pieces, when about ten years ago the Carlinville Woman's Club took the matter in hand and had the chair thoroughly overhauled and placed in first class condition at their own expense. The work was done by Leo Pfaff, Sr., expert cabinet maker, in the employ of Gustav Heinz & Company of this city. When the work had been completed there was a ceremony of rededication held in the court room where pictures were taken with Judge F. W. Burton on the bench.

The Artistic Chandelier

When the recent CWA work began some months past and the interior of the court room was redecorated, the chandelier was taken down. Several times in the past it had been suggested that it be removed because it was alleged to have been a menace to the lives of those who passed under it. The efforts to have it removed were not successful until recently when it was taken down after having done service for sixty-seven years. Much sentiment was attached to it and many regretted that it had to be removed, to make way for more modern lighting equipment.

Location of the Log Court House

The exact location of the log court house was always a subject of heated argument among many of the older residents who have since passed from the scenes of this life. Some contended that it was located near the northwest corner of the square. Others maintained that it was at the southeast corner of the square. W. H. Stoddard came with his parents to Carlinville in 1865. He is now a resident of the Second ward. He says that when he was a small boy he remembers that this log structure stood just north of what is now the north front of the new court house, facing East Main street. The late Captain Samuel Welton, one of the prominent pioneers, told Mr. Stoddard that he (Capt. Welton) moved the old log court house, when it was ordered removed to make way for the second court house. Capt. Welton in his later years was under the impression that it was located originally near the southeast corner of the public square. At any rate, he was the man who moved it to the site on East Main street just north of the new court house. Mr. Stoddard says that when he was a lad the old log court house was used as a carpenter shop by Mr. Poley, one of the early day residents of the county seat. Mr. Stoddard recalls that the old fireplace had been taken down and double doors substituted for the convenience in bringing in lumber. The names of a number of people were cut on those doors and Mr. Poley said that they were the names of the men who had served on juries from time to time.

But to again refer to the original location of the log court house. It would seem that it was clearly established that it was in the center of the present square, by reference to it in a speech by the late John M. Woodson, first mayor of Carlinville, when he dedicated the corner stone of the new court house, October 22d, 1867. He said: "That house standing just there, is the house erected by Seth Hodges, builder, and formerly stood in the center

of the square in this city, on the site where the present (brick) court house stands." It is reasonable to assume that Mr. Woodson knew what he was talking about when he pointed to the old log building and said that it once stood in the center of the square.

Judge Lockwood Held First Circuit Court

Judge Samuel D. Lockwood, one of the associate justices of the supreme court of Illinois, came down from Springfield, and held the first term of circuit court in the log court house in April of 1830. John J. Hardin, once attorney for the people, and Stephen A. Douglas, also attorney for the people, practiced in the log court house. Col. E. D. Baker, one of the prominent attorneys of the state, appeared in court in the first court house. Col. Baker moved to Oregon where he was elected to the United States Senate. He was killed while serving in the union army during the civil war.

Mrs. Graham Turned First Shovel of Earth

To Mrs. Mary A. Graham, of Carlinville, then a girl of 16, fell the distinction of turning the first shovel of earth for the foundation for the new court house. Mrs. Graham was born in March of 1851 and is now in her 83rd year. The ceremony took place at the northeast corner of the building at a point where the corner stone was dedicated in 1867. Nearly seventy years have passed since Mrs. Graham took such a prominent part in starting the court house on its way. She can not recall many of the details but does remember that among those present were County Judge T. L. Loomis and his associates, John Yowell and Isham J. Peebles, and Mr. and Mrs. Crittenden H. C. Anderson. She says that the crowd was large and that much interest was manifested in the event. Mrs. Graham was born in Spanish Needle and is a daughter of Hiram J. and Sarah (Andrews) Rice. The late Judge E. Y. Rice, of Hilsboro, an uncle of Mrs. Graham, held court for thirteen years in the brick court house. He was a circuit judge. One of the homes that stood on the site of the new court house was that of Mrs. Hannah Underkoeffler. Mrs. Graham is of the opinion that Mrs. Underkoeffler conducted a millinery shop in her home. Mrs. Graham is the widow of the late W. D. Graham, druggist, one time mayor of Carlinville and a veteran of the civil war. He died November 16, 1909.

Judge's Room Elaborate

The office of the county clerk is located on the east side of the main floor corridor, at the south end of the building. The offices really consist of four rooms. In the early days the southeast room, which is about ten feet square, was used by the county judge as his private office. It is elaborately finished. On the west side of the wall at a height of about ten feet, is a handsome shield-like design in iron, beautifully finished. Other decorations were in keeping. The judge also had a safe in the wall which was used for his private papers.

Clerk's Office on the Square

For some time County Clerk Geo. H. Holliday had his office on the second floor of the three story building located on the south side of East Main street and the square. A large safe was hoisted up to the office and a hole had to be cut in the brick wall to receive it, the windows being too small.

First Officer in the Court House

The late Henry Burton, who was Circuit Clerk when the court house was built, was the first county officer to occupy the new temple of justice. He moved over in the latter part of 1869. Casper Westermeier was his deputy.

Rooms Never Finished

Four large rooms are located near the dome on the fourth floor of the court house. They were never finished. One of them does not have any floor. Dust and cobwebs, the accumulation of more than half a century, give them a wierd appearance. It is believed that they were intended to be used for storage of old records but no one actually knows this to be a fact.

Material Hauled With Oxen

Nearly all of the material for the court house was hauled to the site on flat cars drawn by oxen. The Chicago & Atlon railroad put in a switch near the end of West First North street. The track extended east up the street to High street, then turned south, entering the court house park south of where the Presbyterian church now stands. Quite a few people in Carlinville are old enough to remember this "ox railroad." The stone composing the large columns supporting the porticos at the north and south entrances were brought to the site in square blocks. Then they were mounted in pairs opposite each other and ground down in the rough to near the proper size. The finishing was done by hand.

First Vote Was Close

When the proposition to refund the bonds was put up to the people at a special election January 5, 1878, the contest was close. It carried by the narrow majority of 128. The vote was: For 1412; Against, 1284. In Staunton the vote for the proposition was 22, while 202 votes were cast against it. In Virden the number of votes for the refunding was 24 and against it, 253. In Girard the vote for the proposition was 195 with 8 against it. North Otter cast 57 votes for the proposition and 2 against it. In Dorchester township every single solitary vote went against the refund and not a vote was recorded for it. Twenty years later, April 5, 1898, the bonds were again refunded. This time the proposition had better luck. The vote for it was 5213; against 2400. In Girard township the people reversed their former attitude and the vote was for 182, and against 276.

Seats of Solid Walnut

The seats in the court room are straight back and are made after the style of church pews. They are of solid walnut and are artistically patterned. The arm rests on the ends are of iron. Very few, if any public buildings are equipped today with seats of the kind that are in the Macoupin county court house. Much care was used in their construction and finish. The estimated cost at the time they were ordered was $3300. It is believed that they cost much more. Competent judges state that the seats could not be duplicated today for twice the estimated cost. Solid walnut furniture has all but passed out of the picture except in the most expensive establishments. The seats have all been cleaned and revarnished.

The New Decorations

The new decorations of the interior of the building have transformed it.

Twenty years ago it was decorated in rather dark colors. The work was done by the late Alex. Gaspard. In the present color scheme tan, brown, ivory and very light green were used. The effect is not only restful to the eye, but gives the entire interior a stately appearance. The lighting is all concealed. The interior of the dome is illuminated with flood lights of 2000 candle power. The court room proper is illuminated with two powerful ceiling lights at the rear and one over the judge's stand. The effect is one of much beauty, eliminating all shadows.

All wiring his been concealed in conduits placed in the walls and ceilings. Switches have been conveniently placed for control of the lights.

The outside of the dome has been painted with aluminum, a light gray and the windows have been trimmed in the same color. The old rock walks have been taken up and concrete walks laid down. A curving driveway of shale has been constructed in the southeast corner of the court house square, leading up to the building.

All Bitterness is Gone

When Governor Deneen held the last bond over the flame which turned it to ashes, he said: "I hope that this, the last evidence of the indebtedness having disappeared, the old bitterness and bad feeling which existed over the construction of the court house will also fade into history." That bitterness is gone. The men who were actively engaged in the construction of the court house, with its ensuing tangle of law suits and bond issues, have passed from the scene of action to their reward beyond. Only a handful of people are now living who remember much about the dramatic days of the court house trouble. A new generation has come upon the stage. With them the animosities created by the court house trouble are only tradition. They hear it mentioned occasionally but it arouses only curiosity. The attitude today is one of pride in the great court house, which all but tore the county asunder back in the sixties. Time is indeed the great healer of wounds.

Architect Estimated Cost

During the court of Huggins, Atkins and Olmstead (1869) they employed Charles H. Pond, a St. Louis architect, to go over the contracts for the building filed with the county court, and make an estimate of the cost. Pond measured the building and his report made under oath was $643,867. His estimate included the heating and gas installations and the furniture. However it did not include the commissioner's fees, architects' fees or per cent for the sale of bonds. This amounted to many thousands of dollars. In his report to the court Pond placed the cost of the present county jail at $14,000.

Graft in Building the Court House

The difference in what the court house cost, $1,380,500, and Pond's estimate of $643,867, is $736,633. Was there graft in the construction of the court house? There undoubtedly was. To say otherwise would be contrary to all the known facts. Who got it? That will ever remain a mystery. Men who were actively engaged in opposing the court house as it now stands and who have since passed away, expressed their belief that none of the county officers, with the possible exception of one, ever profited illegally

from the erection of the court house. The one under suspicion might have proved himself innocent had he been brought to trial. It is believed that the ill-gotten gains from the construction of Macoupin's temple of justice went out of the county, but to whom is a sealed book.

Macoupin is Large County; Rich in History

Macoupin is one of the largest counties in Illinois. It has a length of 36 miles with a width of 24 miles. There are 864 square miles of territory containing 552,960 acres. The population is about 55,000. It is an agricultural county and also has a number of large bituminous coal mines. Its history is forever associated with and specially illuminated by the names of Lincoln, Douglas, Palmer, Rinaker and Rowett of civil war days.

Committee in Charge of CWA Work

The committee in charge of the Civil Administration work under which the court house was redecorated and partially reconstructed was composed of the following members: F. H. Richie, of Palmyra, former chairman of the Board of Supervisors; Frank W. Fries, Carlinville, Sheriff; Michael F. Seyfrit, Carlinville, State's Attorney; Peter J. Caveny, Carlinville, County Clerk. The stone work on the exterior of the building has deteriorated badly in many places. Much more money will be required to place it in first class condition.

Circuit Judges of Macoupin County

The following Macoupin county men have served on the circuit bench since the new court house was built:

Judge W. R. Welch, of Carlinville. He was born in Jessamine county, Kentucky, in 1828. Was admitted to the bar in 1851 and came to Carlinville in 1864. He was elected a circuit judge in 1879 and re-elected at the expiration of his term of office. He died in 1888.

Judge Robert B. Shirley was born in Madison county in 1850. He came to Carlinville when a young man and studied law under Judge Welch. He was admitted to the bar in 1876 and was elected circuit judge in 1893. Judge Shirley was re-elected and served until his death in June of 1914.

Judge Frank W. Butron was born in Bunker Hill in 1857. He studied law under the late Charles A. Walker and was admitted to the bar in 1879. Following the death of Judge Shirley he was elected to the circuit bench and was re-elected, serving until his retirement in 1933.

Judge Victor Hemphill, the present sitting judge, was born near Carlinville in 1882. He graduated from the law department of Washington University, St. Louis, in 1905. He was admitted to the bar in the same year. Judge Hemphill was elected to the circuit bench in 1933.

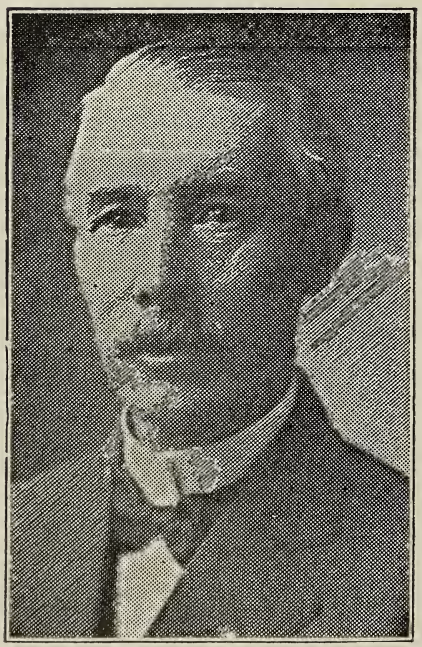
County Judges

Judges who have served on the county bench, beginning with 1849, are as follows: John M. Palmer, James Breden, G. W. A. Cloud, William Weer, Samuel S. Gilbert, George Judd, Thaddeus L. Loomis, Thomas B. Rice, John Yowell, Isham J. Peebles, P. C. Huggins, A. A. Atkins, Martin Olmstead, L. P. Peebles, A. N. Yancey, David E. Keefe, J. B. Vaughn, Balfour Cowan, Herbert Cowan, Andrew J. Duggan, Truman A. Snell, Frank G. Wood and A. A. Isaacs. (Judge Isaacs is the present sitting judge.)

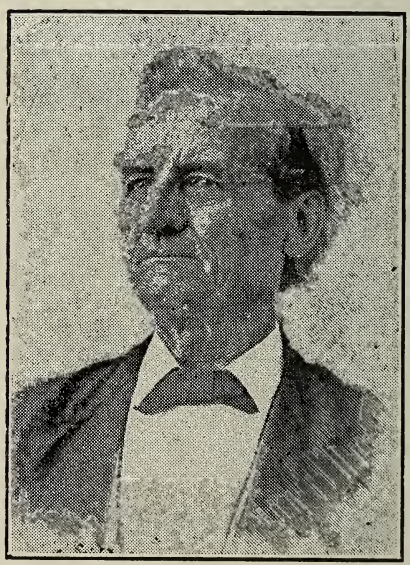
Present County Officers

The present county officers are as follows:

County Judge, Alfred A. Isaacs, Gillespie
State's Attorney, Michael F. Seyfrit, Carlinville
Sheriff, Frank W. Fries, Carlinville
Treasurer, A. H. Behrens, Gillespie
Circuit Clerk, Irvin Reader, Carlinville
County Clerk, Peter J. Caveny, Carlinville
County Superintendent of Schools, L. E. Wilhite, Carlinville
County Coroner, Dr. J. A. McBrien, Staunton
County Surveyor, Fred S. Morse, Carlinville
Master-in-Chancery, E. D. George, Staunton
County Superintendent of Highways, William Yowell, Carlinville
Chairman of County Board, E. J. McIntyre, Carlinville
County Physician, Dr. J. B. Liston, Carlinville
County Mine Inspector, Bruce Huffmaster, Gillespie



Hon. W. E. P. Anderson



Hon. C. A. Walker

ORATION

The following oration was delivered by John M. Woodson, at the laying of the corner stone of the new court house October 22d, 1867. It is reprinted from the original booklet, now in possession of Rev. W. Thomas, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, who was a resident of Carlinville fifty years ago:

Fellow Citizens:—Since our assemblage at this place, most appropriately has prayer been offered up to the Great Ruler of the Universe and Protector of Nations for His blessings upon a work undertaken; and the solemn and ever impressive rites and ceremonies of the ancient and honorable order of Free and Accepted Masons been performed in adjusting this stone, emblematic we trust of "beauty and strength"—at the northeast corner of the building to be erected on this ground.

In the contemplation of what has transpired, the mind of the classic student is, with some propriety, led to inquire why, in this day of enlightenment, the solemnities of the hour? Is this an era in which the gods are implored, and the oracle consulted with offerings of "the corn of plenty," "the wine of joy and gladness," and "the oil of peace?" "The very air that I breathe, he exclaims, is filled with the dust and mould of antiquity!"

It is true the ancients dedicated their temples to the gods by the most imposing ceremonies; and we to-day are making history "repeat itself" in imitating and conforming, to some degree, to the manners and customs of the ancients. Speculative Masonry dates back to the building of the most celebrated and magnificent temple mentioned in biblical or profane history—that of King Solomon. And Ancient Masonry, adhering to the rites and ceremonies of the Order, unchanged by civil commotion or revolution, the undisturbed witness of the decay of national greatness and splendor, the tottering of thrones and crumbling of mighty governments, buried now in oblivion—save the page of history—to-day untouched by the ruthless hand of innovation, sits as the hand-maid of the Christian religion.

In the further contemplation of subjects which crowd upon the mind on this occasion, the fields of religion, philosophy, poetry, chivalry and ancient and modern history open up, inviting one to digress from the true purpose for which we have convened, and tempting one to pluck a gem or a flower by the wayside. But without making such a digression, I will pass to the presentation of what, I trust, will. in view of the fact that we have met to congratulate ourselves upon our prosperity and progress as a people, interest every one present, the history and organization of the government under which we immediately live, and by which we are, so to speak, immediately governed. Endeavoring in a concise manner to show, particularly, the rise and progress of our county, and the legitimate ends desired to be accomplished in the further prosecution of the work here undertaken.

On the 17th day of January, A. D., 1829, while the Capitol of the State of Illinois was located at Vandalia, the General Assembly of this State passed an act creating the County of Macoupin, in territory once comprised in the County of Greene, and which, since its formation, in extent and boundary has remained unchanged. The County was called Macoupin, after the creek of that name which traverses it. The original Indian word or

words from which the creek derived its name was or were Mac-cou-pin-na —white potatoes, or wild artichokes, which grew in great abundance along the creek bottom at an early day, as I learn. (Note—Here follows a description of the log court house previously given in this book, omitted here).

The County Seat of Macoupin was called Carlinville, in honor of Thomas Carlin, a member of the General Assembly in the year 1829, and afterwards Governor of the State of Illinois, through whose influence and active instrumentality the act was passed.

By the terms of the contract the house was to be completed for the reception of the Judge of the Circuit Court, who was expected on the day mentioned in the contract for completion, to open the first Circuit Court ever held in Macoupin County.

That house standing just there, is the house erected by Seth Hodges, builder, and formerly stood in the center of the Public Square, in this city, on the site where the present court house now stands.

In that house, then of so rude an architecture—changed in its appearance—of late occupied as a private residence, and now again the property of the county—Judge Samuel D. Lockwood, then one of the Associate Judges of the Supreme Court of this State, a man of the purest integrity, and an able jurist, and with whose name begins my earliest recollections of the Court, the Court House, and the bar, held the first term of the Circuit Court of Macoupin County, in April, A. D, 1830.

In that house has glittered the intellectual steel of men born to be great; and a score of names of men, eminent and distinguished, could be mentioned, who, within its rude walls, made their first strides toward eminence and distinction.

Of the living it is unnecessary for me to speak—you know them. Of the dead, though known, it would be appropriate in this connection, had I time, to pronounce an eulogy, and in becoming terms of praise to mention the names of men, the memory of whom we cherish as a part of our own history.

On this occasion my duty to the living and the dead, admonishes me to briefly speak of several of the most prominent: Of John J. Hardin, once the attorney of the people here, talented and brilliant—loved and admired for his social character, his intellectual ability and generous impulses; he having gained distinction as a civilian, sought military honors in the Mexican war, in the command of a brave regiment of Illinois volunteers, and poured out his blood on the sanguinary field of Buena Vista; and his death wrapt in sorrow the hearts of Illinoisans.

Of Col. E. D. Baker, one of the most remarkable men who figured in the early history of Illinois; an orator, a genius; who, at the bar or at the political hustings dashed away, as it were, every impediment, and moved directly to the heart—touching the sympathies of the juror in his box, and winning the admiration of a promiscuous audience—he rose to political distinction in Illinois, afterwards represented Oregon in the United States Senate, and later as a General of the Volunteers, was the victim of an ill-advised military movement or blunder on the Potomac, in the late war. His words of eloquence and sublimity pronounced at the grave of Senator Broderick, most beautifully paint the imagery of his mind and the elegance of

his diction, and are a becoming tribute to his eloquent voice, now hushed forever—"in death its echoes will reverberate amidst our mountains and our valleys, until truth and valor cease to appeal to the human heart."

And of Stephen A. Douglas—whose name and memory are so much cherished and admired by the people of this State—in that house as a Prosecuting Attorney, it may be said, he commenced the struggle of life. Ambitious to reach the highest pinnacle of statesmanship and of fame—mounting, as it were, upon the wings of the morning, he soared aloft to the meridian height of glory, and hastened to his setting. A green grove on the shore of Lake Michigan marks the spot where the dead statesman reposes. His ashes are ours; a nation has honored his name, and a monument of marble will speak to generations yet unborn the brilliancy of his career, and the value of his services in the Mississippi Valley.

On the 7th day of March, A. D., 1831, John Harris, the first Sheriff of the county, settled with the county Commissioners' Court the revenue of the county for the year 1830, amounting to $177.85, which had been raised by the levy of a tax of 50 cents on each $100.00 worth of taxable property in the county.

At the June term, A. D. 1835, owing to the rapid growth of the county, and the court house which had been erected being found insufficient for the convenient transaction of business, the Court appointed Col. James C. Anderson, Isaac Greathouse, Stith M. Otwell, John R. Lewis and John Wilson, agents to borrow not less than five thousand, and not exceeding seven thousand dollars at not exceeding eight per cent. int. per annum, for not less than six, nor more than ten years, for the purpose of erecting a good and sufficient brick Court House.

At the March term, A. D. 1836, the agents reported their inability to borrow the money on the terms mentioned in their appointment; and thereupon the Court made a further order, authorizing said agents to give ten per cent. interest; but the county was not able to borrow the money.

At a special term of the County Commissioners' Court, held September 20th, A. D. 1836, commissioners Jesse Rhoads and Thomas Corr, adopted the plan of the present Court House; and Col. James C. Anderson, Dr. J. R. Lewis and Thomas Corr were appointed commissioners to let out the building to the lowest bidder—the building to be paid for as follows: $2,000 March 1st, A. D. 1838; $3,000 March 1st, A. D. 1839; $4,000 March 1st, A. D. 1840; $4,000 March 1st, A D. 1841; and the balance, provided not over $2,000 March 1st, A. D. 1842—in the aggregate amounting to fifteen thousand dollars —installments to be paid in county orders, to bear eight per cent. interest after maturity.

At the March Term, A. D. 1836, of the Court, Jefferson Weatherford, the second Sheriff of the county, settled with the Court the revenue of the county for the year 1835, amounting to eight hundred and sixty-three dollars and fifty cents.—In this connection it is a matter of interest to observe the difference in the taxable property returned in the county in the year 1835 and in the year 1865, thirty years after:

In 1835 to realize the amount of revenue reported by the collector, the assessment, at fifty cents on each one hundred dollars worth of property (and that was the rate of taxation at the time) would make the total asses-

sed valuation, one hundred and seventy-two thousand and seven hundred dollars, ($172,700). In 1865 the assessed valuation of property in Macoupin county was six millions, three hundred and fifteen thousand, two hundred and thirty-two dollars, ($6,315,232) an increase in thirty years of over six millions of dollars.

Every one acquainted with our system of taxation, and the statistics returned in the reports of our public officers, is well aware that the assessed value of property in Macoupin county, is about one-third of its actual value. That being true, let us see what was the actual value in 1835 and in 1865, assuming the same disparagement is applicable to both assessments:

True value in 1835, $518,100.00.

True value in 1865, $18,935,696.00.

Pursuing the investigation further, let us compare, taking dates, the financial condition of our county; to be more explicit, its ability to pay a debt: In 1835, the Court, without credit, contracted to build a court-house to cost $15,000. In order to have raised that amount of money on the true value of the property in the year 1835 ($518,000,) as I have mentioned, in one levy, it would have been necessary to have imposed a tax of nearly three per centum. Now let us see what sum would be realized by the imposition of a tax of three per centum on the true value of the property, in the year 1865 ($18,935,696.) It would be $568,070.88. By this comparison, based upon statistics, it will be observed that Macoupin county was much more able in 1865 to build a court house to cost $284,000, than in 1835 to build a court-house to cost $15,000. And here, lest I should be charged with a forgetfulness of duty and a departure from propriety, I wish, in the comparison and presentation of statistics, to disclaim any intention to attempt, on this occasion, to argue any one into the indorsement of the acts of any public servant. This day I bury the partisan, and come here to rejoice with my fellow-citizens, in the progress of our county.

As a citizen of Macoupin county, in looking over the past, I admire what the pioneers of this people have done. With a keen perception they penetrated the veil of the future and saw what was in store. To resume: let us see what has been done in the quarter of a century intervening between the years 1840 and 1865:

In 1840 the population of Macoupin county was 7,826. In 1865, 32,305.

In 1840 the number of churches in the county did not exceed ten, of any character. In 1865, about sixty good houses.

In 1840 there was not a flouring mill in the county; in 1865 twenty-one flouring mills—two in the city of Carlinville, said to be as good as can be found in this State, capable of turning out 1000 barrels of flour per day; 1 at Brighton, 1 at Shipman, 1 at Nilwood, 2 at Girard, 2 at Virden, 1 at Palmyra, 1 at Scottville, 1 at Chesterfield, 1 at Rhoad's Point, 2 at Bunker Hill, 1 at Woodburn, 1 at Gillespie, 1 at Clyde, 1 at Dorchester, 2 at Staunton. Besides the flouring mills mentioned, our business men along the lines of railroad have introduced a great deal of machinery for pressing hay, shelling corn, and elevating and handling grain of all kinds.

In 1840 the number of primary and common schools in the county was 14; scholars, 375. In 1865 the number of free schools, 186; scholars, over 9,500.

In 1840 Macoupin county produced 42,919 bushels of wheat; in 1865, over 500,000 bushels. In 1840 Macoupin county produced 510,930 bushels of corn; in 1865, near 2,000,000 bushels.

In 1840 there was not a foot of railroad in the county; in 1865, about 65 miles of railroad—the Chicago & Alton, and the St. Louis, Alton & Terre Haute routes—leading thoroughfares from the great cities of the sea-board and lakes to the great city of the Valley of the Mississippi.

A little over thirty years ago this place was without mail facilities, and it may be said without roads. The first traveled mail and stage route through this country was from St. Louis to Springfield; leaving St. Louis, thence going to Edwardsville, Madison county; thence to a watering-place on "Wolf Ridge," now the site of the town of Bunker Hill—one of the most beautiful towns in Illinois, then inhabited by the wolves—thence heading the streams via Dry Point, Honey Point and Shaw's Point to Zanesville, in Montgomery county; thence via Macoupin Point to Springfield. In the examination of this subject, I have endeavored to seize upon the most prominent facts, and present them; it would be tedious to longer detain you in the investigation.

In this great State of Illinois, is it a matter of wonder that the red man hesitated in giving up his rich hunting ground, its broad expanse of prairie and woodland, its beautiful limpid streams and silvery lakes; their home by nature—the land in which their dead were buried? In reviewing the legends of the past, is not the heart of the white man melted in the contemplation of the love which actuated the Indian warrior, Black Hawk, when he fought for the grave of his daughter, on the bank of the "Father of Waters"—a spot to which he annually repaired to lament and bewail the death of his dark-eyed Indian girl, the pride of his heart and of his Indian home?

The pale-face came; the march of civilization set in; the Indian fell back, unable to cope with the unyielding will of the pioneer. The finger of inexorable fate pointed to the hour of their departure; the darkness of Indian barbarism was to be dispelled in this beautiful land, by the refulgent light and truth of the christian religion; and to-day the graves are the only traces left, almost, which mark an era when all this county was the home of the savage. From a wilderness it has sprung into a garden; from a wild waste or hunting-ground, it has become the home of millions, and teems with wealth.

Fellow-citizens: in scanning the quarter of a century that has just elapsed in the rise and growth of our county, have we not every reason to congratulate ourselves upon our prosperity? At first we see our county struggling from paucity of numbers and meagerness of revenue, in the establishment of an organization. Then were her pioneer days of happiness. Now she has mounted up with the most energetic of her sisters, and we can boast of her position, and experience an exalted feeling of pride in her advancement, her growth, her wealth, her richness of soil, her abundant productions; her churches, her colleges and seminaries of learning; her school-houses, her cottage homes; her farmers, their herds and their granaries; her mechanics, the busy hum of their industry; the budding wealth

of home manufactures, and last, but not least, in the rising grandeur of the structure here being erected by the skill of her artisans. On this ground where we are to-day have placed this corner-stone, is to rise

"The princely dome, the column and the arch,"

and in the beautiful symmetry of the Roman Corinthian style of architecture, an edifice of magnificent proportions, which, as a public building, will not be surpassed in any county in the State of Illinois; a structure to be the property of Macoupin county, it will stand here as the watch-tower of a great and rich people, encircled by a country not surpassed in the world.

Fellow-citizens, pause and contemplate her greatness. She stretches from the West to the East twenty-four miles; from the South to the North thirty-six miles; contains an area of eight hundred and sixty-four square miles, and over five hundred and fifty thousand broad acres.

Where is the man in our county who does not feel a pride this day—burying the partisan, and rising to an appreciation of what we are and what we may be if our resources are properly husbanded and directed? Greece, the mother of oratory, philosophy, poetry and architecture, had not, in her palmiest days a soil like ours—had not the resources and facilities of this nineteenth century, but her people were pround of being called Athenians; and Athens, in her glory, was supported by the strong hearts and willing minds of her people, who, in a noble spirit of emulation, sought to make Greece celebrated and renowned—to make her terrible in war and proud in peace.

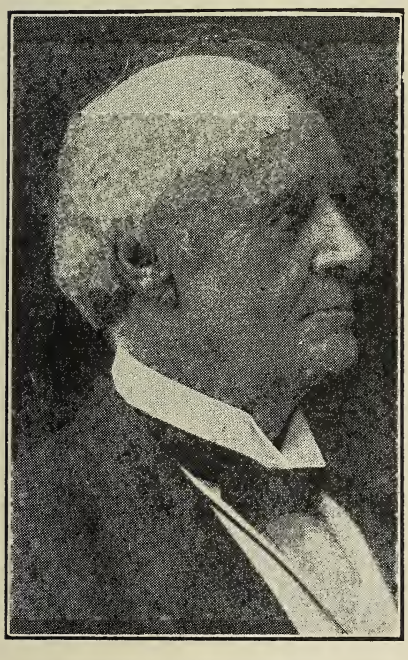
Let us then, in the proper spirit, emulate and follow the example of the Greek—let our watchword be ONWARD! till we can say, at least, that Macoupin county shall worthily be designated the richest field in agriculture and letters in the "garden spot of the American continent."

To-day let us dedicate our hearts to the cause of our county; and when this building is completed, let us again repair to this place to dedicate it as the temple of Justice—that Justice of which one of the most brilliant of modern British essayists has most beautifully said: "Truth is its handmaid, freedom is its child; peace is its companion, safety walks in its steps, victory follows in its train; it is the brightest emanation of the Gospel; it is the greatest attribute of God; it is that center around which human motives and passions turn, and Justice sitting on high, sees genius and power, and wealth and birth revolving 'round her throne, and teaches their paths, and marks out their orbits, and warns with a loud voice, and rules with a strong arm, and carries order and discipline into a world, which, but for her, would only be a wild waste of passions."

Fellow-citizens: I trust that we may all live to see the hour when justice shall sit in her temple here, and a light be shed abroad, which, in its influence, "will extinguish revenge, and communicate a spirit of purity and uprightness."

GENERAL JOHN I. RINAKER

Indelibly impreseed on the history of Carlinville and Macoupin county is the life and career of the late Gen. John I. Rinaker. From the time of the trouble over the building of the present court house came into the public eye, Gen. Rinaker was actively engaged as attorney in behalf of the people. He was outspoken in his opposition to the methods used in erecting this famous temple of justice. He was graduated from McKendree College in 1851, and then took up the study of law in the office of Gen. John M. Palmer. Four years later Gen. Rinaker was admitted to the bar. From the time of his admission until his death, Jan. 15, 1915, a period of sixty-six years, he enjoyed a large practice; was one of the recognized leaders of the Macoupin County bar and his ability as a lawyer had a state wide reputation. Gen. Rinaker was a profound student; approached all problems with which he was confronted, with an open mind and his judgment on matters of law and state was respected by men in all walks of life.



Gen. John I. Rinaker

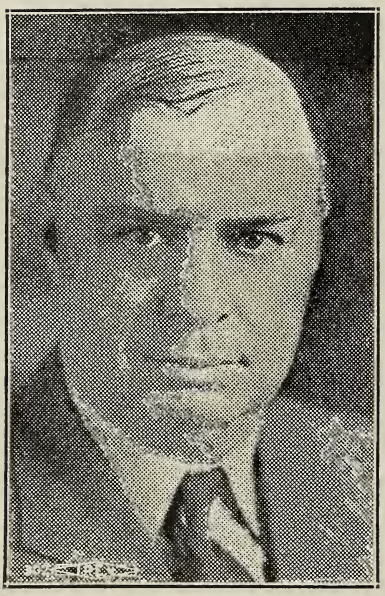
In 1862 Gen. Rinaker organized the 122d regiment of Illinois Volunteer Infantry for the union army and was appointed its colonel. He served until the close of the Civil war; was in many battles and when the great struggle was ended came home with a brigadier generalship which he won by his soldierly qualities. In politics Gen. Rinaker was a staunch Republican. He was for many years the recognized leader of his party in this section of Illinois. Gen. Rinaker was elected to congress in 1894 from this, the 21st district. He was in the 85th year of his age at the time of his death.

Gen. Rinaker took into partnership his son, Thomas Rinaker, which association continued until the father's death. Thomas Rinaker demonstrated his ability as a lawyer and was one of this county's most successful practitioners, with a large clientele, who entrusted him with their business. Mr. Rinaker served with distinction as a member of the House in the Illinois General Assembly, and as a member of the constitutional convention in 1920. He died June 18, 1926.

His son, Thomas Kelly Rinaker, who was admitted to the bar in 1916, has continued the family name in one of the oldest professions with credit to himself and to the legal fraternity. It has been eighty years since Gen. Rinaker began the practice of law. The name is still carried on, commanding the respect of all who are familiar with the history of this distinguished family.

JUDGE ALFRED A. ISAACS

Judge Alfred A. Isaacs was born April 22, 1884, in Dorchester township. His parents were the late Abraham and Nancy E. (Fruit) Isaacs, the mother being a native of Madison county. The Isaacs homestead in Section One of Dorchester township, is one of the oldest in the county and was settled by the grandfather in 1840. The place is still in possession of the family. Judge Isaacs graduated from the Gillespie schools; attended and graduated from Cornell College, Mt. Vernon, Iowa. He finished his education by graduating from the law department of Northwestern University, at Evanston, in 1909, and was admitted to the bar the following year.



Judge Alfred A. Isaacs

Since his admission he has practiced his profession with marked success. He was city attorney of Gillespie, and served two terms, a total of four years as Master-in-Chancery of Macoupin county.

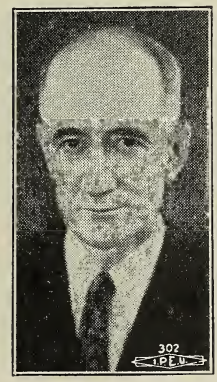
In 1926 Judge Isaacs was the successful nominee of the Republican party, for the office of county judge and was elected. He was re-nominated and re-elected in 1930, and is, therefore, serving in the closing months of his second term as judge. At the April, 1934,primary his party again nominated him, without opposition, as their candidate for judge at the coming election in November. In discharging the duties of his office, Judge Isaacs brings to bear a thorough knowledge of the law, and experience acquired over many years of practice. He is cordial in his relations with his constituents and is one of the most popular judges who ever occupied the county bench.

In 1913 Judge Isaacs was united in marriage with Eslie Smith of Sioux Falls, South Dakota. To their union two children have been born, namely, Elizabeth and Helen Isaacs, who are students of the Gillespie High School. For many years he has been an active member of the Methodist church and a cordial supporter of any cause for the betterment of his city and county.

JUDGE VICTOR HEMPHILL

Judge Victor Hemphill was born near Carlinville in 1882. He is a son of Robert S. (who died in 1924) and Mary Ross Hemphill. The parents are descendants of Macoupin county pioneers and the family has a long record of high quality citizenship, which has added much to the interesting history of Macoupin county. Judge Hemphill's mother is a resident of Carlinville.

Judge Hemphill attended the Carlinville schools and graduated from the local high school and Blackburn college. When he had finished his college education he taught in the Virden high school. Having the practice of law in mind as his life's work, he attended Washington University, St. Louis. He graduated from the law department of that institution in the class of 1905. The same year he was admitted to the bar in Missouri and Illinois.



Judge Victor Hemphill

Following his admission to the bar Judge Hemphill established an office in his home city. In politics he is a Democrat. Shortly after beginning the practice of his profession he took an active interest in politics. He was elected state's attorney in 1916 and was re-elected in 1928. He was an able prosecutor. He was elected mayor of Carlinville in 1921 and served three terms in that position, leaving a record of duty well performed. In 1933 he was elected to the circuit bench from this, the seventh judicial district. Judge Hemphill is a member of the legal fraternity, Phi Delta Phi, and of the Illinois State, and American Bar Associations.

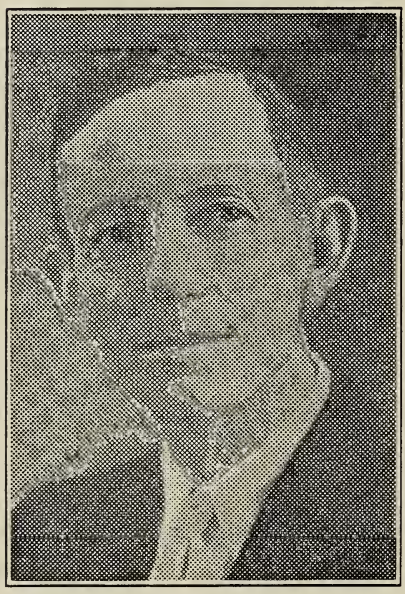
It is not often that such a busy and useful career has fallen to one of Judge Hemphill's years. His extensive practice; his success as a state's attorney, and mayor of his native city, helped to give him the necessary experience and background to fit him for the high position he holds today. And hard work, close application and study of the problems with which he has had to deal, have enriched his store of knowledge upon which he can draw in the office which he occupies.

In 1915, Judge Hemphill was united in marriage with Miss Adele Loehr, accomplished daughter of Theodore C. Loehr, of Carlinville. They have two children, a daughter, Barbara, and a son, Robert T. Hemphill. Judge Hemphill and family are residents of Burton Place. As a diversion from work, Judge Hemphill plays golf.

L. E. WILHITE

L. E. Wilhite, who is now serving in the closing months of his second term as county superintendent of schools of Macoupin county, was born near Hornsby. He is a son of the late T. J. and Hannah Wilhite. The father served in Company H, of the Sixth Missouri Volunteer Infantry in the Union army in the civil war.

L. E. Wilhite went to work in his father's store which was also the post office, at early age. Arriving at the age of seventeen, he re-entered school. When he had finished his education he took up the profession of teaching. However he had decided that he would become an attorney. With this in view he began the study of law in the office of his brother, the late P. A. Wilhite. Upon the death of the brother he continued to read law in the office of J. H. Atterbury, of Litchfield. In the year 1907 he was admitted to the bar and practiced in Gillespie. He served as city attorney under two different mayors, namely, R. H. Isaacs and J. B. Bycroft.



L. E. Wilhite

The practice of law becoming distasteful to him Mr. Wilhite re-entered the teaching profession. He taught and supervised schools for twenty-two and one-half years prior to his election to the office of county superintendent of schools and was never employed more than eight miles from the house in which he was born. The seven years immediately preceding his election to the office of county superintendent, he was superintendent of the Gillespie grade schools. Mr. Wilhite's record as a teacher, which covers a period of more than a quarter of a century, has given him unusual experience and opportunity to qualify him for the position as head of the schools of this county. He is vested with much authority, yet he has always approached each problem brought before him with sympathy and understanding which has made him very popular with pupils, officers, patrons and teachers of the county. He holds a life state certificate. In politics Mr. Wilhite is a Republican. He was the unopposed candidate in the April primary in 1934 of his party for renomination to the office he now holds. He is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church.

In 1909 Mr. Wilhite was united in marriage with Etta Lockyer, of Hornsby. They are the parents of three children, namely, Thelma, who is teaching in the Springfield schools, Mary Ellen and Louis, attending the Carlinville schools.

PETER J. CAVENY

Peter J. Caveny, county clerk, was elected to that office in November of 1930. He was born in South Otter township April 9, 1888, and is a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. John Caveny. His mother's maiden name was Margaret A. Carmody. The son received his education at Douglas country school and while growing up, worked on his father's farm. Upon arriving of age he took up railroading and for fourteen years was in the operating department of the Chicago & Northwestern railroad. For nine years he was a conductor on that road and for three years was in the northwest, making his headquarters at Seattle, Washington.

In 1923 he returned to Carlinville and for seven years was in the employ of the Diamond Kerosene Company. In politics Mr. Caveny is a Democrat. He had political ambitions and when he received the nomination of his party in 1930 he was elected by a substantial majority. In all of his endeavors he has made it a rule to give the best that is in him to the task at hand. As an employee of the railroad company and the Diamond Kerosene Company his chief endeavor was to serve those who entrusted him with responsibilities, with fidelity and honesty. This same effort for painstaking service has marked his conduct of the office of county clerk. At the April, 1934, primary Mr. Caveny was again the nominee of his party for the office he now holds, and without opposition.

February, 1917, he was united in marriage with Mame E. McEvoy, of Gillespie. Mr. and Mrs. Caveny have eight children, namely: Eileen, Patricia, Paul, Clement, Mary, Margaret, Elizabeth and Dorothy. Their home is on East Second South Street. Mr. Caveny is a member of the Elks and of the Knights of Columbus. He is a Past Exalted Ruler of the Elks and is Past Grand Knight of the Knights of Columbus.

MRS. M. A. IBBETSON

Two daughters were born to Charles Dana and Mary Merriam Whipple Monroe, namely, Mary Augusta, the subject of this sketch, and Lucy Annette. Their birthplace was Grafton, Mass. Mrs. Ibbetson was born April 9, 1845. Her father was a druggist at Grafton and he died when Mrs. Ibbetson was four years of age. The mother with the two daughters, decided to move West about 1850. She had two brothers, Josiah Whipple, of Chesterfield, and Perley Whipple, of Alton. Mrs. Monroe made the long journey by rail to Lake Erie, then to Chicago and down to Alton by water. Arriving in Alton, they remained about two years, then moving to Chesterfield, where Mrs. Monroe married Judge Z. B. Lawson. Mrs. Ibbetson was educated at Greenwood Academy, a select school for girls maintained at Chesterfield by Miss Matilda Williams. She finished her education with two years at Mt. Holyoke College, at South Hadley, Mass.

Returning to Chesterfield she taught for one year in the Chesterfield school. October 24, 1866, she was united in marriage with William H. H. (Tip) Ibbetson, of Chesterfield. He was a veteran of the civil war and served in Company D, 122d Illinois infantry. They resided at the old homestead four miles west of Chesterfield until 1882 when they moved to Carlinville to the Weer property on East Main street. Mr. Ibbetson engaged in the grocery business on the south side of the square. He died in 1883, at the age of 43 years. To their union were born the following children, and at the time of the death of the father, the eldest was 16 and the youngest about one year of age: Harry Monroe, deceased; Marie Annette Goldsborough, of San Antonio, Texas; Robert Edwin, Los Angeles, Calif.; Clara Ann Palmer, who died in Carlinville May 11, 1934; Ernest Albert, now mayor of Carlinville; Mabel Augusta Schuele, of Carlinville; William Henry Harrison, of Los Angeles, Calif. Harry Monroe died Oct. 9, 1899. Left with this large family Mrs. Ibbetson reared them to manhood and womanhood, displaying courage and fortitude which deserves the greatest praise.

It does not fall to the lot of many women, or men either, to have lived through such marvelous changes as have taken place in our country, as Mrs. Ibbetson has witnessed. She recalls the days of the tallow candle and remembers quite well the first coal oil lamp in Chesterfield, at the home of her uncle, Josiah Whipple. And Mrs. Ibbetson remembers vividly the days before and during the civil war. Before the war, runaway slaves were passed through Chesterfield on their way to Carlinville via the underground railway and thence to Canada, where freedom could be found. Josiah Whipple was one of the main men in the traffic to free the slaves. Meals were cooked and mysteriously taken away and no questions asked. The negroes were placed under straw in wagons and brought through at night. The Carlinville station was located on what was once known as the Braley property on East Main street. The house was destroyed by fire a number of years ago.

None in Carlinville is more loved by her children and revered by her many friends than Mrs. Ibbetson. She has lived a long and useful life. All who know her congratulate her. Mrs. Ibbetson has a sister, Mrs. Annette Loomis, residing at Centerville, Cape Cod, Mass.

WILLIAM YOWELL

William Yowell, County Superintendent of Highways, was born in Polk township, November 15, 1882. He comes from one of the pioneer families of that community and is a son of the late William and Sarah (Price) Yowell. He attended the district school and worked on the farm until arriving at young manhood when he went to farming for himself. He was industrious and was considered one of the coming men of his township. In politics Mr. Yowell is a Democrat. The people of Polk have honored him with numerous positions of trust and responsibility.

He served as town clerk from 1912 to 1914. In 1925 he was elected a member of the Board of Supervisors, serving two years with distinction to himself and credit to his constituents. In the second year of office he was honored by being elected chairman of the Board, discharging the difficult duties of that important office in a manner which won for him the respect of all of the members of the Board, regardless of their political affiliations. The Board of Supervisors appointed Mr. Yowell to the position of County Superintendent of Highways in June of 1927. His efficiency and thorough knowledge of the duties of that office caused him to again be appointed in September of 1933.

October 28, 1909, Mr. Yowell was united in marriage with Fay Thompson, of Polk. To their union three daughters were born, Hazel, Claribel and Anita. Mrs. Yowell died January 1, 1920. February 12, 1922, Mr. Yowell was united in marriage with Aletha Curtis, of Chesterfield. One son, William Junior, was born to them.

Mr. Yowell and his interesting family are residents of the Second Ward of Carlinville. He takes pardonable pride in the fact that the land in section 14, in Polk, settled by his father in 1860, is still in possession of the family. It consists of three hundred and four acres.

THOMAS J. COSTELLO

Thomas J. Costello was born in Western Mound township, Macoupin county. He is a son of the late John and Ellen Costello, highly respected pioneer residents. Mr. Costello was the fifth child of a family of ten children. When a lad his parents moved from Western Mound to Bird township where they resided for a few years, moving back to Western Mound in the year 1888. The boyhood life of Mr. Costello was not much different from that of the average country youth. He attended country schools and when he had finished the eighth grade went to Western Normal College, at Bushnell, Illinois. He attended there for a part of two years where he fitted himself for teaching. In 1899 he secured and taught his first school. He continued in this work for eleven years, spending his summer vacations working on the farm.

Thomas J. Costello

In 1909 he was offered and accepted the position of Deputy Circuit Clerk and Recorder under the late Thomas Cain. He continued with Mr. Cain for two terms of four years each. At the expiration of his second term as deputy clerk under Mr. Cain, which was in 1916, Mr. Costello spent two years in which he prepared a set of abstract books, which occupied his time until 1918, when he opened an abstract office for himself in Carlinville, in which business he is engaged today. Mr. Costello, not having been born in the lap of luxury, necessarily made his own way since leaving the country schools. He always put his best efforts into any undertaking in which he was engaged, having in mind that a job that was worth undertaking was worth doing well. In the position of school teacher, deputy circuit clerk and of conducting his own business he has been conscientious, painstaking and diligent, and success has followed. Mr. Costello takes pride in the fact that he never went back on a friend.

Mr. Costello's many friends all over Macoupin county know him and appreciate his worth for the excellent citizen that he is. Mr. Costello is of Irish descent.

EDWARD L. CALVERD

Edward L. Calverd, son of Andrew and Emma (Stanton) Calverd, was born February 18,1884, at Medora, Illinois. He went to school beginning at the usual age and in due time graduated from the Medora High School. After finishing school he went to work in his father's large general store in his home town. He continued with his father until 19 years of age when he branched out for himself, establishing a grocery and hardware business in the thriving village of Chesterfield. In 1915 he sold this business and cast his lot with the General Motors Company, specializing in Delco lighting and Frigidaire systems for homes and business establishments.

He continued in Chesterfield until 1927 when he came to Carlinville where he is today, his location being in the well known Burgdorff building on the north side of the square.

In 1907 Mr. Calverd was united in marriage with Edith M. Moore of Chesterfield. They are the parents of two children, namely, Lewis A. and Chester Calverd, who are associated with their father in business. The eldest son, Lewis, married Hazel Pointer of Chesterfield. They have one child, a daughter, Joyce, aged five.

Mr. Calverd has achieved success in his business, though as he points out, it is a modest one. He has, like most business men, had his ups and downs, especially since the depression and its consequent effect on merchandising. But all of the time Mr. Calverd has worked hard, has been persistent, taking advantage of every bright spot that has shown through the clouded sky of business doubt and uncertainty, of the past six years. The Calverd family is musical and they have derived much pleasure in their home from this gift. The son, Chester, is an accomplished performer on the piano and pipe organ.

FRED S. MORSE

Fred S. Morse can rightly take pride in the fact that he is a descendant of one of the prominent pioneer families of Carlinville and Macoupin county. He was born February 17, 1900, at the well known Morse homestead just adjacent to this city on the west hard road. He is the eldest son of Theodore S. and Grace (Munhall) Morse. He is one of a family of eleven children, all living. His grandparents were the late Theo. and Emma (Welton) Morse. His great grandfather was Capt. Samuel Welton. On his father's side Mr. Morse comes from a family of civil engineers. His father was for twenty-five years one of the practical and active engineers, and was the author of one of the most complete atlases ever published in Macoupin county. The father besides being one of the widely known engineers of this county, was City Engineer of Carlinville. He was a member of and an active worker for many years in the First Presbyterian church of Carlinville. He died in 1921.

Fred S. Morse attended the Carlinville schools and graduated from the high school in the class of 1918. He attended and graduated from Blackburn College in 1921 with a degree in agriculture. But his life's goal was civil engineering and with this in mind he attended and graduated from the University of Illinois in the class of 1927, with the degree of civil engineer. He has served as county surveyor since 1924 and city engineer of Carlinville, since 1926.

Mr. Morse is a veteran of the World war and is a member of Guy Baird Post, No. 554, of the American Legion. For some years he has been a member of the Illinois Society of Civil Engineers. Since boyhood he has been a member of the First Presbyterian church of this city.

In 1932 Mr. Morse was united in marriage with Miss Mildred Phillips, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Phillips, of Carlinville. They have one child, a daughter, Winifred Grace, aged one year.

Since a youth Mr. Morse has not been idle. He knows what it is to make his own way and has gained valuable experience from that unrivaled school of "hard knocks." He is not only a capable and experienced member of his profession, but is also a pleasant and agreeable gentleman to meet and know. His large number of friends predict that he is only at the beginning of a career that will reflect additional credit and honor to himself, his profession and his family.

THE CARLINVILLE DEMOCRAT

The Carlinville Democrat, now in its seventy-ninth year, was established September 6, 1856, by William C. Phillips, as a Republican paper. Associated with him were a number of Carlinville citizens who advocated the abolition of slavery. Prominent among these was John M. Palmer, a young and brilliant lawyer. He agreed that if the paper was established, he would serve as its political editor. This he did for several years, his editorials attracting wide attention throughout this section of Illinois. It was first called the "Free" Democrat, but in 1867 the word free was dropped for more brevity and typographical neatness. Mr. Phillips took into partnership with him in December of 1856, Henry M. Kimball, and the firm became Phillips & Kimball. This continued until February of 1859, when Mr. Phillips sold his interest to Mr. Kimball, who became sole owner. On assuming the ownership of the paper, Gen. John M. Palmer continued his connection with the paper under Mr. Kimball as political editor. This was terminated October of 1859, when Gen. Palmer became a candidate for congress.

In 1867 A. W. Edwards bought a half interest in The Democrat. He was known in Carlinville and over the county as "Major" Edwards. This partnership continued until 1872 when Major Edwards was appointed warden of the penitentiary at Joliet and severed his connection with the paper. Again Mr. Kimball became the owner and editor until 1879, when he took into partnership A. G. David, who for some time had been one of the local editors of The Democrat. When Mr. Kimball retired the paper became the property of Mr. David. He continued as editor and publisher until Sept. 1, 1901, when he sold out to James E. McClure, who continued as editor and publisher until January, 1934, when he sold The Democrat to Armin C. Kurz, for a number of years editor and publisher of the Staunton Star-Times.

Few country weeklies have had a longer record and none a more honorable and prominent part in the history of Carlinville and Macoupin county, than The Carlinville Democrat. Since its first issue it has stood for clean journalism and is welcomed in the family circle with keen interest and delight. It has been in the past and is now ably edited and managed. The Democrat has lived through three wars involving our country—the Civil war, the Spanish-American war and the more recent World war. It told the story of the local young men and women who went away and came back, and of those who went away and never came back. It has mirrored public events in Carlinville and Macoupin county faithfully and with accuracy—the joys and sorrows of its people, their hopes, and ambitions achieved. A great historian has said: "The truest record of events, local, state and national, will be found in the newspapers." So far as this community and county are concerned, that may be said of The Democrat's record of more than three quarters of a century.

LOTT ICE & COAL COMPANY

Forty-one years ago, or to be more exact, in 1893, the late D. H. Karnes and his brother, Stephen Karnes, established themselves in the ice business in Carlinville. The partnership continued until Stephen Karnes retired. At that time Edward H. Lott became a partner in the business and the firm name became Karnes & Lott. The partnership continued until the death of Mr. Karnes which occurred in 1924. Since that time the style of the firm is Lott Ice & Coal Company, under which name the business is conducted today.

There have been many changes in all lines of business in the past forty years and the ice business is no exception. When the Karnes Brothers began in a modest way forty-one years ago, the supply was cut from the creeks and ponds near Carlinville. Men with saws and other necessary tools went to the location, cut the ice, loaded it into wagons and hauled it to town where it was stored for use during the warm months. An unusually cold winter meant that the ice crop would be plentiful and of proper quality. If, perchance, the winter was open and the weather mild, there was a scanty supply or no supply at all and the product had to be shipped in from the North.

But modern science has changed all this. Today machines and refrigerators supply this necessary product, regardless of the condition of the weather. In the old days of the ice business there was not much attention given to sanitation. If the ice came from a creek or pond which looked good before the water froze, that was fine. If not, there wasn't much that could be done about it. In this day and age with manufactured ice, sanitation comes first, and the product is made and delivered under strict laws governing its purity and healthfulness. The company has a refrigeration plant in Carlinville and clean, sanitary trucks deliver their product under most inviting conditions, the old-fashioned two-horse wagon having long ago passed out of the picture. Some years ago the company added a coal yard to their line of business. Under the management of Mr. Lott the company has increased the number of its patrons and friends from year to year.

GEORGE B. ARNETT

In 1910 George B. Arnett started in the real estate and insurance business in Carlinville. The fact that he is still conducting the business does not begin to tell the interesting story of Mr. Arnett's career. He was born in Bird township, west of Carlinville, February 16, 1868, and is a son of the late Mr. and Mrs. George W. Arnett, well known and highly esteemed residents of this community. The son secured his preliminary education at West Fairview school northwest of this city. He was ambitious and desired to widen his scope of knowledge. He attended Blackburn College and entered the Northern Indiana Normal school located at Valparaiso. At the end of two years he finished the course, specializing in educational methods and business.

Returning home he taught school for several years, most successfully. Retiring from teaching he was offered and accepted a position with D. M. Osborn & Company, manufacturers of binders and farm implements. He remained with this company for five years. Having received a lucrative offer from the Smith-Premier Typewriter Company of Cincinnati, Ohio, he accepted. His headquarters were at Louisville, Kentucky. He greatly increased the company's business and in time was made district manager covering a large territory.

During those busy years Mr. Arnett cherished the idea of going into business for himself. This ambition he satisfied by purchasing a hardware store in Greenfield. He continued there for several years and came to his home city of Carlinville, establishing himself in the real estate and insurance business. He was the sole proprietor until 1917 when he took into partnership his son, George C. Arnett. This was during the latter years of the World War. Heeding the call to arms the son enlisted in the army in Chicago in December of 1917. He went overseas, serving for fifteen months. Following the Armistice in 1918, he returned home and again took up his business career. Since 1917 the firm is known as Geo. B. Arnett & Son, with the father the active manager. They have their offices in the two story brick building on East Main street, which is owned by George B. Arnett and is known as the Arnett Building.

Their business has been successful and they enjoy the confidence of a large clientele.

ENOS WATERS

Enos Waters was born in 1890, in Neleigh, Nebraska, and is a son of Lewis and Sarah Enos Waters. The father died February 17, 1924. The mother is residing on the old Enos homestead, five miles west of Carlinville in Bird township. There is another son, O. S. Waters, who is in the advertising business in Los Angeles, California. Since pioneer days none have stood higher in their respective communities than the Enos and Waters families. The names are synonymous with good citizenship and sturdiness of character. Mr. Waters' grandparents on his father's side were Mr. and Mrs. John Waters, for many years residents of the Charity church community. On his mother's side the grandparents were Mr. and Mrs. Miles Enos, the community which bears their name having been so named in honor of Miles Enos.

Enos Waters attended and graduated from the Townsend Harris high school in New York City; he then attended the City College of New York. Mr. Waters finished his college education by attending and graduating from the University of Illinois, in the class of 1914, taking the degree of B. S. in Agriculture. In the same year Mr. Waters began farming on the Enos lands west of Carlinville, where he remained until 1921, during which time he was instructor in Agriculture at Blackburn College.

In 1921 Mr. Waters was offered and accepted the position of Farm Advisor of Edgar county, Illinois, with headquarters at Paris, the county seat. He continued there until 1928 when he resigned and returned to Carlinville.

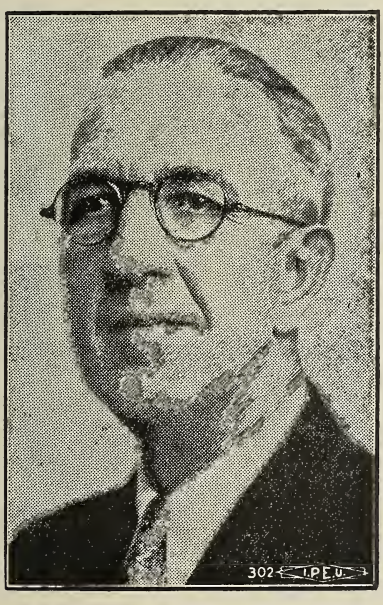
In 1929 he became Farm Manager for the trust department of the Carlinville National Bank. This department has charge of approximately 17,000 acres of land in Macoupin county for various individuals and institutions. He is also secretary of the Carlinville National Farm Loan Association, which is the local unit of the Federal Land Bank, of St. Louis. This association has about $1,000,000 in farm mortgage loans in Macoupin county. Mr. Waters is also secretary of the Carlinville Production Credit Association, making loans for production purposes through the Farm Credit Administration. This latter organization does an extensive business in financing feeder cattle and making dairy loans in Macoupin and Montgomery counties. Mr. Waters is engaged in a work which is especially appealing to him and for which he made thorough preparation in his education. His duties bring him in contact with a large number of people over a wide range of Macoupin county. All who know him hold him in great respect and place implicit confidence in his integrity and honesty.

Mr. Waters was united in marriage in 1919 with Miss Reba Sacre, daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Jerre Sacre, prominent residents of near Carlinville. Mrs. Waters died in 1928.

ELVIN D. GEORGE

An unusually busy career has fallen to the lot of the subject of this sketch. Mr. George was born in Staunton, in Staunton township, on October 7, 1883, and is the elder of the two sons born to May Godfrey George and the late William Robinson George. Both parents were members of pioneer families who settled early in Staunton township, and who contributed so much to the early history of that community.

Mr. George attended the Staunton Grade Schools, and Whipple Academy and Illinois College, at Jacksonville, graduating from the latter school in 1902 with high honors. He then read law for a year in the office of the late D. G. Williamson, one of Macoupin's most prominent attorneys, afterwards completing his legal education at Washington University, in St. Louis. He graduated from the Law Department of that institution in 1905 and was admitted to the practice of law in the State of Illinois the same year.



E. D. George

He immediately began the practice of law in Staunton, his home town, and was elected to the office of City Attorney in 1906, and has served the City, at different times, for about twelve years in that capacity. He is also serving as Staunton Township Attorney, and as Village Attorney for Williamson and Livingston, in Madison County, and for Sawyerville in this county, which positions he has held for the last seven years. Mr. George is a member of the Illinois Bar and of the American Bar Associations, and is now serving his third term as President of the Macoupin County Bar Association. By appointment of the Judge presiding in the Circuit Court in May, 1933, he is now serving as Master-in-Chancery of Macoupin county.

The military experience of Mr. George is also quite varied and extensive, he having enlisted as a private in the United States Marine Corps in 1907, serving continuously thereafter until his discharge in 1919, shortly after the Armistice. During this term of service he advanced in the ranks until at the time he resigned he held the rank of Warrant Officer. His record shows honorable and distinguished service in many foreign countries, including the Hawaiian Islands, Guam, the Philippine Islands and China. In China, from 1912 to 1915, and from 1916 to 1919, he was attached to and served with the 38th Company, U. S. M. C., American Legation Guard at Peking, as First Sergeant, Sergeant-Major and Warrant Officer. Mr. George, since his discharge, has been especially active in veterans' work. He is a charter mem-

ber of Elmer Dick Post No. 362, American Legion, and served as its first Commander. He is also a charter member of Staunton Post No. 1241, Veterans of Foreign Wars.

Mr. George is a member of the Masonic Fraternity, Staunton Lodge No. 177, A. F. & A. M., and the Consistory and Shrine at East St. Louis. He is also a member of the Staunton Rotary Club, having served that club both as Secretary and President. In addition to these organizations he has been active in many other organizations of his community which have to do with civic improvements and community welfare, giving freely of his time and abilities to the problems confronting these organizations.

In politics he has always been a staunch Democrat, supporting the principles of that Party and working for its advancement and success at all times. His recognized experience and ability, coupled with his keen interest in civic affairs, resulted in his being selected by the Democratic Party, at the April, 1933, Primary to be the candidate of that Party for the office of County Judge of Macoupin county at the election to be held November next.

On June 15, 1922, Mr. George was united in marriage with Miss Mildred E. Rowe, of Carlinville, the granddaughter of the late Mrs. Herman Wiese, and the daughter of Wm. E. Rowe, of Springfield, and the late Clara Mason Rowe. Mr. and Mrs. George have, since their marriage, made their home in Staunton, where Mrs. George has become helpfully active in the social and civic affairs of their community.

The Macoupin County Farm Bureau.

Two of the outstanding institutions that are working for the benefit of its members and incidentally for all of the people of the county, are the Macoupin County Farm Bureau and the Home Bureau. The Farm Bureau was organized in December, 1917 with four hundred members. It came into being as the result of carefully thought out plans of those who believe that the only way to progress among the farmers is organization, with a definite plan of action. W. P. Miller was the first Adviser and was employed in February of 1918. The second adviser was E. W. Rusk, and the third and present Adviser is W. F. Coolidge. He came to Carlinville from his native county of McLean, in 1928. He is capable, energetic and understanding. Under his direction and with the cooperation of the officers and members the membership has more than doubled, now being 980.

The scope of the Farm Bureau's activities has widened greatly since its organization seventeen years ago. Some of the outstanding projects are: Information on soil treatment; keeping accurate farm accounts; cooperative marketing of livestock and other farm products, such as wool, soybeans and grain; 4-H Club work. The subsidiary organizations are: Macoupin Service Company; a Cooperative Farmer's Creamery Company, a project available to every farmer in Macoupin county.

The Farm Bureau and its allied organizations are doing a work which is bringing results. The work has been especially difficult during the past few years, on account of the very adverse conditions which prevail over the entire country.

The officers are the following: Harold A. Keele, Chesterfield, president; Chris Powars, Palmyra, vice president; Albert Barnes, Bunker Hill, secretary; Otto Hauschild, Gillespie, treasurer. These four officers and the following constitute the executive committee: Charles Gibbel, Girard; Earl T. Leach, Carlinville; T. B. Weller, Carlinville. Miss Mildred Weller is the office secretary. The Farm Bureau have their offices in the Ibbetson building on North Broad street, in Carlinville.

The Home Bureau.

In order to make the movement for better conditions on the farm, more nearly complete, the Macoupin County Home Bureau was organized in 1930. The aims and objects of the Home Bureau are clearly set forth in the following declaration of principles:

To have every home—economically sound; mechanically convenient; physically healthful; morally wholesome; mentally stimulating; artistically satisfying; socially responsible; spiritually inspiring; founded on mutual affection and respect.

Mrs. M. E. Eldred, formerly of Bird township, but now of near Gillespie, was the first county chairman, serving for two years. Mrs. Clyde Land, of Barr township, was the second county chairman, serving one year. Mrs. Bert Ruyle, of South Otter, is the present chairman. Miss Gertrude Bekman, of Alton, Iowa, was chosen the first Home Adviser, which position she holds

today. Miss Bekman is popular with the membership; is a tireless and able worker whose sympathies are wholeheartedly in the cause for which she stands.

The present officers are: Mrs. Bert Ruyle, South Otter, chairman; Mrs. Elmer Yowell, Atwater, vice chairman; Mrs. Kayo Hildabrand, Gillespie, secretary; Mrs. J. P. Denby, Carlinville, treasurer; Mrs. William Schneeberg, Brighton, Major Project Chairman; Mrs. R. L. Comer, Carlinville, Minor Project Chairman; Mrs. Herbert Meiher, Nilwood, Recreation Chairman; Miss Bertha Shultz, Shipman, 4-H Club Chairman; Mrs. Joseph Yahr, Carlinville, Publicity Chairman. Miss Josephine Rhoads is office secretary.

The Home Bureau has a membership of 425, with twenty-one working units. The home is the unit around which society and government revolve. What could be more commendable than to give its members a bright and hopeful outlook upon life? That's what the Home Bureau does.